FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-053
Friday
18 March 1994

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-053 *18 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: Effective immediately, all items published in the Latin America DAILY REPORT are also disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Niehaus Denies 3 States Withdraw Support for Candidacy *[LA REPUBLICA 11 Mar]* 1
OAS Secretary General To Meet Menem on Election *[PAGINA/12 17 Mar]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Central America To Propose End to Blockade *[Havana Radio]* 2
Drafting of Caribbean Association Begins *[Havana TV]* 2
Vice Foreign Minister Attends *[Havana Radio]* 2
Suarez, Corrieri Welcome Donation Ship at Mariel *[Havana TV]* 2
Ilobaina Continues Tour of Asian Nations 2
Delivers Message to Cambodian King *[Havana Radio]* 2
Begins New Delhi Visit *[Havana Radio]* 3
New Ambassador to Spain Presents Credentials *[Havana Radio]* 3
Raul Castro Discusses Defense With Journalists *[Havana TV]* 3
Alarcon on Success of Workers Parliaments *[Havana Radio]* 3
Cuba Expert Discusses 'Very Deep' Changes *[Santiago Radio]* 4
Roundup of Economic Activity *[Havana Radio, TV]* 4

Haiti

Germany Announces Temporary Closing of Embassy *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Opposition Moves To Fill Political Vacuum 5
Eugene Calls For Mobilization *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
MDN, FRAPH Ready for 'Great Offensive' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Coalition Asks Army To Assume Power *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Mayor Seeks Cooperation of Deputy Mayor in Crisis *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Deputy Mayor Defends Himself, Seeks Meeting *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
UN/OAS Condemns Increase in Capital Violence *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

NAFTA

Figures Prove NAFTA Successfully Implemented *[Mexico City TV]* 8

MEXICO

EZLN Issues Communiques on Dialogue, Legal Adviser 9
Says Government Lying *[LA JORNADA 17 Mar]* 9
Cites Duplicity *[LA JORNADA 17 Mar]* 9
Announces Legal Adviser *[LA JORNADA 17 Mar]* 10
CONAC-LN Denies Being 'Political Arm' of EZLN *[LA JORNADA 17 Mar]* 11
Peace Commissioner Comments on Dialogue With EZLN *[Mexico City Radio]* 11
Officer Cites Anti-EZLN Measures *[REFORMA 27 Feb]* 12
EZLN Representatives Initiate Consultation *[Madrid EFE]* 12
Guatemala's De Leon Continues Visit 13
Announces Creation of Committee *[Mexico City TV]* 13
Discusses Peace Process, Accord *[Mexico City TV]* 13

PRD Presidential Candidate Cardenas Interviewed *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 13 Mar]* 13
Roundup of Mexican Electoral Developments *[EL NORTE 9 Mar, etc.]* 14
Roundup of Economic Developments *[EL FINANCIERO 7 Mar, etc.]* 15

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Calderon, Niehaus Criticize U.S. Pressure on OAS Vote *[LA REPUBLICA 9 Mar]* 17
Figueres Announces Cabinet Structure *[LA REPUBLICA 9 Mar]* 17

El Salvador

FMLN Claims Government Failing To Comply With Accords *[San Salvador Radio]* 18
Presidential Debate on Public Security *[San Salvador TV]* 19
CD-FMLN-MNR Coalition Platform Outlined *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 16 Mar]* 20
Preparations for 20 March Elections Detailed 21
Army Confined to Barracks *[Hamburg DPA]* 21
TSE President on Vote Tallying *[San Salvador Radio]* 22
Parties Sign Peace Pledge *[ACAN]* 22

Honduras

Central Bank President: Difficult Year Ahead *[TIEMPO 10 Mar]* 23

Nicaragua

Further on 3-80 Front Disarmament Postponement 23
Government Minister Comments *[Managua TV]* 23
Talavera Interviewed *[Managua Radio]* 23
H. Ortega Comments on Meeting With Watson *[BARRICADA 17 Mar]* 25
Lacayo: Watson Visit 'Beneficial' *[Managua Radio]* 25

Panama

Roundup of Electoral Developments *[Panama City TV, etc.]* 26

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Di Tella: Integration Process Must Involve Military *[CLARIN 16 Mar]* 28
Bolivia's Sanchez: Nation Wants To Join Mercosur *[PAGINA/12 17 Mar]* 28
UN Secretary General Gives News Conference *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 28
Pharmaceutical Director Views U.S. Patents Conflict *[CLARIN 16 Mar]* 29
Workers Partially Destroy Tucuman Congress Building *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 30
Menem Plans 'Extensive Visit' to PRC *[CLARIN 16 Mar]* 30
Political Tensions in Cabinet Meeting Reported *[CLARIN 25 Feb]* 30
Police Seize Nearly 200 Kg Cocaine in Raids *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 32

Brazil

Nation Set To Formalize Participation in OECD *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 Mar]* 32
Creditor Banks' Representative Supports Loan Proposal *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 32
PSDB Admits Cardoso Not To Run for President *[O GLOBO 17 Mar]* 33
Bahia State Governor Magalhaes Interviewed *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 13 Mar]* 33
Workers Party Bloc Criticizes Government Program *[O GLOBO 16 Mar]* 34
Church Assails PT Positions *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 Mar]* 35
Program Requires Constitutional Changes *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 Mar]* 35
Vice Presidential Candidate on Program *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 17 Mar]* 36

Non-Compulsory Vote Defeated in Constituent Congress
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 Mar] 36
Import Tariffs Reduced To Force Price Drop *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 12 Mar]* 36
Leadership Style of Ceara Governor Gomes Viewed *[ISTOE 9 Feb]* 37

Colombia

Cartel Lawyers Deny Client's Ties to Pepes *[EL ESPECTADOR 20 Feb]* 39
Prosecutor: U.S. 'Thin-Skinned' on Drug Issues *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 40
Justice Minister Sends Letter to de Greiff *[EL ESPECTADOR 20 Feb]* 41
De Greiff on Church Investigation, Drug Legalization *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 42
Government Asks Cuba for Explanation of Guerrilla Summit *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 43
Prosecutor Supplies Evidence *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 43
Defense Minister Criticizes Amnesty International *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 43
CNC-EL TIEMPO Poll Shows Samper Leading *[EL TIEMPO 20 Feb]* 44

Ecuador

President Denounces TSE Ruling on Call to Referendum *[Quito Radio, TV]* 46

Paraguay

PRF Receives DPRK Vice President; Communique Issued *[ABC COLOR 13 Mar]* 47

Peru

Commentary Urges Resumption of U.S. Aid *[EL PERUANO 8 Mar]* 48
Police Report Large Drug Shipment Seized *[EL COMERCIO 4 Mar]* 48
2,400 Shining Path Guerrillas Surrender in Huanuco *[EL COMERCIO 4 Mar]* 49
Agriculture Leader on Need To Restructure *[EL COMERCIO 14 Feb]* 49
Newspaper Terms La Cantuta Law 'Intolerable' *[EL COMERCIO 14 Feb]* 51

Uruguay

Executive Branch Announces Armed Forces Appointments *[EL PAIS 3 Mar]* 52
Broad Front Picks Montevideo Mayor as Presidential Candidate *[EL PAIS 10 Mar]* 52

Venezuela

Council of Ministers Approves Emergency Banking Law *[Caracas TV]* 53
Constitutional Reform Proposal Outlined *[EL NACIONAL 31 Jan]* 54
Escovar Salom Submits Annual Report to Congress *[EL NACIONAL 2 Feb]* 55
New Development Minister: No Return to Past Policies *[EL UNIVERSAL 5 Feb]* 56
Aluminum Industry Official on Adjustment Process *[EL UNIVERSAL 4 Feb]* 57

Niehaus Denies 3 States Withdraw Support for Candidacy

PA1703193994 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Mar 94 p 4a

[Report by Aquileo Sanchez Viquez]

[Text] [Costa Rican] Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus arrived on Thursday in Santiago de Chile. During a news conference, discussing his candidacy for the post of OAS secretary general, he indicated he has the support of 22 nations, which guarantees his election.

He denied St. Lucia, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador had changed their opinion, adding that these rumors only seek to dilute support for him. The official reported having the support of the Central American bloc, Caribbean community, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Chile, whereas Venezuelan Miguel Angel Burelli has the support of two nations, and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, the support of eight.

During a subsequent interview with LA REPUBLICA, Niehaus said Chile backs him. He announced he will try to meet with Brazilians and Uruguayans to try to get their endorsement. The foreign minister dismissed as mere rumors the reports that an international pressure campaign—in which the U.S. Department of State is reportedly participating—is forcing several countries to withdraw their support for the Central American candidacy.

He noted, however, that manifestations of this strategy have been the "ridiculous" ideas that the Central American isthmus and the Caribbean want to have control over the inter-American system or that Caribbean islands are disgruntled over the banana problem.

Niehaus indicated that many countries that have endorsed President Gaviria already feel uncomfortable with a pledge that will have a negative outcome. Further, the official said that on 28 March, after he is elected, he will visit the authorities of the countries that did not vote for him so that together, recognizing the will of the majority, they can work to make the OAS regain a protagonist role in fighting poverty and developing the entire continent.

As for other pending matters, he indicated the main factor will be national unity regarding this candidacy. [Costa Rican] President-elect Jose Maria Fi[illegible] gave the best example when he set aside his p[illegible]nce and publicly endorsed him. Along these l[illegible]lso, the rumors of another Costa Rican ca[illegible]ere dispelled when former President Oscar Ar[illegible]blicly backed Niehaus at the start of the campaign for the OAS. "Any other Costa Rican or Central American candidacy would break the existing bloc. [no closing quotation mark as published]

OAS Secretary General To Meet Menem on Election

PY1803013394 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrived on 16 March in Buenos Aires to attend a meeting of regional security experts. According to diplomatic sources, the main subject Baena Soares will discuss in the meeting he is scheduled to hold today with President Carlos Menem will be the situation in Haiti.

Before his meeting with Menem, Baena Soares will hand him the 1994 Inter-American Leadership Award granted by the Panamerican Development Foundation, an organization linked to the OAS.

The true reason for Baena Soares' visit to Argentina, however, is the battle over his succession that must be decided in less than two weeks. The struggle among the strongest candidates—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernard Niehaus Quesada—is so hard that the third candidate—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli Rivas—predicted on 16 March that the OAS secretary general's election, scheduled to be held on 27 March, will not be decided in the first round.

Baena Soares's succession was complicated by Gaviria's unexpected candidacy, which was supported by Argentina despite having committed its vote to the Costa Rican foreign minister. The Colombian president's candidacy was launched by the United States and this, according to Burelli Rivas, "changed the rules of the game."

Cuba

Central America To Propose End to Blockade

FL1703123094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] We learned today that the Central American countries will propose to the OAS a plan that provides for suspending the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba over three decades ago. This was reported by diplomatic sources in Tegucigalpa tonight [16 March]. Those circles also confirmed that the proposal will be made to the regional organization after the election of a new secretary general to replace Brazilian Joao Baena Soares.

Drafting of Caribbean Association Begins

FL1703122894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The process of integrating the Caribbean began today with a meeting of experts in Jamaica that is to last until 18 March. Those specialists are to draw up the document creating the Association of Caribbean States [Asociacion de Estados Caribenos]. The organization will embrace the entire Caribbean Basin and will coordinate multilateral integration policies at the government level. The association will be made up of the 13 members of Caricom [Caribbean Community], the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and the colonies of the Caribbean Basin. The association will be created during the summit scheduled to be held in Barbados during the first week of July.

Today's meeting was opened by Jamaican Foreign Minister Benjamin (Claire).

Vice Foreign Minister Attends

FL1703165194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1532 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Cuba ratified its call for integration during the technical meeting for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States, which is being held until Friday at the convention center of Kingston, Jamaica. Most of the heads of the delegations present at the meeting, most of which are countries bordering the Caribbean, participated in yesterday's opening session.

Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi said that Cuba supports efforts to establish the Association of Caribbean States during the technical meeting in Kingston. In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Sanchez Parodi pointed out that the event's highlight was the coincidence of criteria by specialists in creating the association.

Sanchez Parodi also said that the delegations are analyzing other aspects of regional organization. Sanchez Parodi went on to say that experts from Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and representatives of the French Government for Caribbean departments voiced their points of view on the scope and perspectives of the future organization.

Today, the agenda to create the Association of Caribbean State will focus its technical discussions on membership, its main departments, the adoption of decisions, and financing—elements that make up the project of creating the association. Observers believe that another meeting of specialists may be necessary prior to the summit of heads of state and government, who will approve the organization.

Suarez, Corrieri Welcome Donation Ship at Mariel

FL1803025194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpts] As we announced at the beginning of our newscast, a welcome ceremony was held at the port of Mariel for the ship that brought from Tampico, Mexico, the humanitarian aid donated by the third U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan. [passage omitted]

At this popular ceremony, Reverend Raul Suarez, in the name of Cuba's churches and the Martin Luther King Memorial Center, expressed appreciation for the third U.S-Cuba Friendship Caravan's gesture of solidarity.

For his part, Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, made the statement that follows. [passage omitted]

This has been Maribel Puerto, reporting for NTV.

Robaina Continues Tour of Asian Nations

Delivers Message to Cambodian King

FL1703135994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk, who is under medical treatment in China. Castro conveyed hopes for Sihanouk's quick recovery and for Cambodia's success in its national reconciliation and reconstruction process.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina presented the message to Chea Sim, acting head of state and chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly, who received him at the Phnom Penh Royal Palace and expressed his gratitude for Cuba's cooperation with Cambodia in the past.

It was also learned that during the talks between Robaina and Prince Norodom Sirivut, Cambodian foreign minister and acting head of government, both countries conveyed their desire to increase the level of their traditional relations of friendship.

According to reports, Cambodia has expressed interest in Cuban assistance in the sugar and (?steel) industries, as well as in the areas of health and education, based on

mutually advantageous principles, and with the support of a third party interested in developing these sectors in Cambodia.

Begins New Delhi Visit

FL1703155094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Today, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina began his 48-hour tour of New Delhi. Early this morning, Robaina held a meeting with his counterpart, Dinesh Singh, during which the two diplomats reviewed the historically friendly relations between Cuba and India. During this encounter, Dinesh Singh expressed his admiration for the Cuban people's efforts to resist the economic difficulties they are facing. He went on to say that India will continue supporting Cuba in international forums.

Roberto Robaina said: Even though the two nations have always maintained close ties, we should take advantage of this occasion to take practical steps to search for common interests that could deepen trade relations.

The diplomats agreed to meet again in June, during the summit of nonaligned countries to be held in Cairo to discuss the main problems of developing nations. Both diplomats expressed themselves in favor of strengthening the work of the Nonaligned Movement.

Just hours prior to his meeting with his counterpart, Robaina placed a floral wreath at the Indira Gandhi memorial here in the capital. He also visited the Red Fort, the most important monument in New Delhi, which gives a complete vision of Muslim scholars' way of life.

Today's most important event was a meeting that Roberto Robaina held, just minutes ago, with 60 businessmen at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where the Cuban foreign minister gave a comprehensive explanation of the outlook for investment in the island. He said: Even though there is a certain preference toward Latin American countries in order to achieve greater regional integration, we must give consideration to the countries like India that have stood by us during difficult times.

There was great interest on the part of the Indian businessmen in learning of possibilities for investment in biotechnology, pharmaceutical products, tourism, fishing, textiles, and agriculture. Robaina explained that today Cuba does not have enough capital but does have a great human resource and an existing infrastructure, which are primary factors for joint ventures. [passage omitted]

New Ambassador to Spain Presents Credentials

FL1703160794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Rosario Navas Morata, the new Cuban ambassador to Spain, today presented her credentials to King Juan Carlos in a ceremony held at the Royal Palace in Madrid. In a friendly and cordial environment, the new ambassador exchanged opinions with the Spanish king on Cuban-Spanish bilateral relations.

According to Cuban diplomatic sources cited by PRENSA LATINA, the chat lasted longer than the time established for such activities by protocol.

Raul Castro Discusses Defense With Journalists

FL1803024694 Havana Te' Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] A meeting of Army General Raul Castro Ruz with outstanding journalists, the president of UPEC [Union of Cuban Journalists], and the directors of the principal mass media today [17 March] became a fruitful exchange of opinions and information regarding the progress of defense tasks, as well as an interchange about other national current affairs topics.

This dialogue, during which journalists who were awarded the Jose Marti national journalism prize for 1993 participated, was a continuation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces' [FAR] homage to press workers begun at a recent meeting with Division Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, head of the general staff.

In an event that lasted for more than seven hours at FAR Ministry headquarters, the participants received detailed information on improving the FAR, with the objective of adapting its structures, systems, and activities to the nation's economic possibilities.

The FAR minister spoke at length about these subjects and explained in detail experiences and results obtained by the FAR's regular troops, and especially the EJT [Youth Labor Army], both in agricultural-livestock production earmarked for self-sufficiency and that earmarked for the population.

Another aspect amply discussed by Army Gen. Raul Castro was the process of perfecting the FAR's managerial system, in operation for several years now, which is characterized by its comprehensiveness.

In the name of those present, UPEC president Tubal Paez called the meeting a great gift to the sector and reiterated all journalists' commitment to remain, as has been the case up to now, in the front line of combat in defense of the Revolution. Paez affirmed that the FAR Ministry and the commander in chief have, in Cuba's journalists, one of their principal weapons.

Alarcon on Success of Workers Parliaments

FL1703195894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Today, in an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, stated that thousands of proposals made by workers have already been implemented to restructure the domestic finances of the

country. Alarcon said that the workers parliaments have served for collective discussion of possible measures in general so that each worker can express his or her opinion and hear the opinions of others to form a collective criterion.

The leader of the Cuban parliament pointed out that just as important as this aspect was the identification by the workers parliaments of problems in each work center as well as the necessary decisions that would permit reduced costs and increased efficiency. Alarcon underscored that, with that in mind, they have been able to obtain thousands of proposals and specific measures, many of which have been implemented.

Alarcon went on to say that the solution of economic difficulties is a problem concerning the entire nation and not just a group of legislators. He concluded by saying: We must see the people's government as it really is: a parliament inserted in our society.

Cuba Expert Discusses 'Very Deep' Changes

PY1703225994 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Report by Carmen Castro]

[Text] The Cuban Government currently is implementing very deep economic and political changes. These changes are not well understood abroad, but the government continues implementing them because we are fully convinced that we will overcome the current difficulties. The changes, which also have an important influence on foreign relations and seek to meet the needs of the new times, began in 1990. They are part of a reorganization process aimed at making governmental actions meet the dynamic international changes that have had a dramatic impact on the lives of Cubans.

These comments were made by Luis Suarez, a Cuban expert on international matters who heads the Cuban Center for Latin American Studies. Suarez was specially invited for President Frei's installation and has held several talks on the Cuban situation with Chilean Government experts and Chilean Foreign Ministry officials.

In Suarez' opinion, the current Cuban process cannot be called a transition process because these changes began 35 years ago. Considering the U.S. policy regarding Cuba, which is translated into an economic blockade, he does not believe the Cuban situation is critical:

[Begin Suarez recording] A country that is only 90 miles away from the United States, a country that has had its national identity attacked by a power as huge as that of the United States—which lies hardly 90 miles from its borders—finds the task of building a national and popular democracy very hard, complex, and arduous. Such a task cannot be achieved overnight. Therefore, when people talk to me about a Cuban transition, I tell them that the Cuban transition began 35 years ago when Fulgencio Batista's brutal military dictatorship was ousted and Cuba began to build this superior sort of democracy that all peoples in the world should yearn to have. [end recording]

Suarez' option for the type of government being enforced in his country did not prevent him from seeing the difficulties faced by the Cuban Government. He said the economic blockade is a powerful obstacle to any sort of change and has a dramatic impact on the people. Paradoxically, he admitted that if the blockade were suspended, it would have a conflictive impact on his country. Suarez believes that a society that is blocked and besieged develops a culture appropriate to that type of harassment.

In his opinion, however, it is important to count on active and concrete international solidarity. He pointed out that this solidarity was translated into $50 million last year and it has prevented the island from being ideologically isolated.

Roundup of Economic Activity

FL1703171194

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish on 16 and 17 March.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 16 March reports that (Miguel Marul), president of the Executive Committee of the People's Government in the municipality of the Isle of Youth, has departed for Italy, which maintains close relations with our country and especially with the Isle of Youth. (Marul) said that the objective of his trip is to establish cooperation agreements and relations of friendship with Bologna and Capri.

Radio Reloj at 2034 GMT on 16 March reports that protocols have been signed making sister cities of Matanzas and Leon, Spain.

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 16 March reports that a group of 20 managers and experts from Canadian mining companies has toured geologic and mining areas of Matanzas, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, Camaguey, and Villa Clara Provinces looking into investment potential. The tour falls within the activities prior to the annual convention of Canadian prospectors and was organized by the firm (Carib-Gold) and Cuba's (Geominera S.A.). The president of (Carib-Gold) expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit, as well as great optimism, saying in English: "I think it is inevitable we will have more business with Cuba." He added: "Up to now we have had only smaller companies that are willing to take higher risks and invest in Cuba, but I think that this trip is showing there is now an interest from some of the major international mining companies." Six Canadian mining companies are working in Cuba, and another two will begin work in Villa Clara.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 17 March reports that the Sergio Perez Castillo fertilizer mixer plant in Holguin has been 70-percent repaired with the purpose of recovering the maximum capacity of 500 tons daily. Current investments to recover production in Holguin surpass 700,000 pesos.

In the same newscast, Rebelde reports from Camaguey that bad road conditions in the country have prompted national and provincial experts to exchange ideas and experience in the use of alternative materials in repaving and repairing roads. It reported that Cuba has 14,000 km of paved roads, not counting urban and perimeter areas, and that because the distribution of asphalt has been reduced since 1989, Cuban crude oil is being used in the asphalt mixture, with solid experience obtained in Matanzas and Villa Clara.

Radio Rebelde adds that Cuba received almost 250,000 tourists last year as a result of Cubanacan operations. This represents almost 40 percent of the foreign tourists visiting the country. These operations have brought some $96 million to the country, although financial contributions by other tourist companies, such as civil aviation, have increased this figure to $700 million. Cubanacan's manager said that tourism activity in 1994 will surely meet Cuba's goal of 30,000 rooms to shelter 1 million tourists, who would leave $1 billion in the country.

In the same newscast, Rebelde reports that Chinese Ambassador to Cuba Xu Yicong has delivered a donation of clothing and school supplies for the municipalities of Arroyo Naranjo and Playa. Pedro Chavez, president of the Havana Provincial Assembly, and other local officials were present at the ceremony. The Chinese ambassador said that this donation is a contribution of the embassy personnel to the country's efforts in these difficult times.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 17 March reports that the breakdown of one of the generators of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric plant in Cienfuegos has caused blackouts in the capital and other parts of the country, including some circuits not usually affected because of the existence of food processing plants or other establishments of priority importance. Extreme efforts are being made in this plant to restore the supply of electricity as soon as possible.

In the same newscast, Progreso reports that Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres Perez has noted the importance of the current stage for sugar production. Speaking on behalf of the coordination and support group and of the commander in chief, he stressed the crucial need to increase production and to defend efficiency.

Progreso adds that workers of the petroleum drilling and extraction company in the municipality of Cardenas in Matanzas have promised to extract approximately 1 million tons of crude oil this year. Engineer Marcos Aguilera, company director, said they intend to produce 230,000 tons by the end of March, which is 28,000 tons more than the current plan. Last year the company produced 815,000 tons of crude, or 158,000 tons more than in 1992.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 17 March reports that workers of the 1 de Mayo Industrial Gas Plant in Havana are working hard to put the generator back into operation with a greater capacity to stabilize the production of oxygen, nitrogen, argon, and compressed air. The main fractionating line of 550 cubic meters daily broke down at the end of last year. While repairs are under way, workers are performing complete maintenance on the plant.

In the same newscast, Rebelde reports that cane cutters from the transport union in Havana Province have reached their objective of cutting 1 million arrobas of cane in tribute to the 116th anniversary of the Baragua protest.

Haiti

Germany Announces Temporary Closing of Embassy

FL1703174794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The German Government announced on 15 March in Port-au-Prince the temporary closing of its embassy in Haiti as of 31 March and the recall of its accredited diplomats. In a communique published in the Haitian capital, Bonn explained its decision as a consequence of the serious economic and political crisis resulting from the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat. The foreign representations in Port-au-Prince have been obliged to buy fuel at a very high cost on the black market for several months. Some neighborhoods in the capital have electricity only three hours a day. Bonn deems this necessary closing regrettable because of the traditional friendship and excellent cooperation between the two countries in the past.

While pointing out that humanitarian aid will be maintained as long as possible through nongovernmental organizations and churches, the German Government advises that financial and technical cooperation remains suspended. The consular tasks [word indistinct] of the Port-au-Prince embassy will henceforth be performed by the General Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Florida, the communique adds.

Opposition Moves To Fill Political Vacuum

Eugene Calls For Mobilization

FL1703175994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Gregoire Eugene, spokesman for the coordinating committee of the parties and groups hostile to President Aristide, called on 17 March for a general mobilization of the masses to cope with the embargo and fill the institutional vacuum created by the exile of

President Aristide and the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Malval. This mobilization may take the form of a people's demonstration within the next few days, according to Eugene, who plans to call on other political groupings to reinforce the defensive line. In his opinion, we are in complete anarchy, and without the courage of the Haitian people the country would sink as conditions coalesce into social explosion. [passage omitted]

MDN, FRAPH Ready for 'Great Offensive'

FL1703235094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Anti-Aristide opposition is mobilizing and calling on the Army to support a solution to the crisis. The coordination committee of the parties hostile to President Aristide has decided to go on the offensive to try to fill the institutional vacuum. Mobilization is the political fuel the committee intends to use to achieve this goal. During its first contact with the press on 16 March, this assembly of parties, including MDN [Mobilization for National Development] and FRAPH [Revolutionary Front for Haitain Advancement and Progress], terms the absence of a leader in the executive anarchy. The committee's president says this political vacuum can provoke the explosion of a social bomb in the country. Attorney Gregoire Eugene states that the problem of institutional vacuum must be solved in any case:

[Begin Eugene recording] We are going to get involved immediately because there is danger in the house. It is urgent. The situation can no longer hold. We are going to launch the great offensive and impose on whomever it may concern the obligation of filling Haiti's institutional vacuum, allowing the country to emerge from its crisis. I am not saying that in filling this vacuum, we are going to solve all the problems, but at least something will be done, there will at least be an organization to help the country emerge from its deadlock. [end recording]

The coordination committee intends to interact with other political forces in an effort to devise a unified strategy for facing the power vacuum that has existed since Malval's resignation. Questioned on the attitude of the international community toward such an initiative, Eugene asserts that in case of rejection of their solution by the foreigners, Haitians will have to learn to manage the embargo:

[Begin Eugene recording] If the international community agrees with our decision not to remain in this state of anarchy and decides to consider the ambient misery, that is fine. If it is deaf and uneasy, then the only answer is for us to find ways to manage the embargo. That is, unfortunately, what we have not learned to do. It would be necessary that after this embargo, after the experience that we will have faced, we could say blessed be my accounts. [as heard] [end recording]

It should be noted that during this news conference, the coordination committee, following the forum at the Visa Lodge, considered the legislators' plan doomed to failure.

Coalition Asks Army To Assume Power

FL1703222694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Opposition to the president-in-exile is in motion. Citing the political vacuum that has existed since the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Malval in mid-December 1993, the national coalition [not further identified] has charged the Army with responsiblity for assuming power, or of supporting the formation of an ad hoc government. Let us listen to the coalition's spokesman, Mr. Brutus:

[Begin Brutus recording] Openly, and with the support of the entire nation, the National Coalition, concerned with the extreme peril that has been brought upon the Haitian nation, solemnly charges the Haitian Armed Forces to put an end to the drifting of the Haitian ship, either by temporarily assuming the country's leadership, or by facilitating the implementation of an ad hoc government in charge of conducting the state of Haiti through the difficult times it is facing.

Port-au-Prince, 15 March 1994. Carl Denis, secretary general; Patrick Brutus, spokesman. [end recording]

Mayor Seeks Cooperation of Deputy Mayor in Crisis

FL1703181994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The office of Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul is pleased to publish—as promised—the report on expenses incurred on the occasion of the symbolic Save Honor carnival of 1994. In a press release dated 14 March, the mayor's office, which had just paid three months' beck wages to the directors and teachers of the communal schools, the employees of the communal home, and some employees of the Port-au-Prince City Hall, deplores the fact that Deputy Mayor Joseph Gerald Salomon has set himself to prevent the refuse collection workers and the majority of City Hall employees from receiving their paychecks, which have been available for over one month.

This press release says the office of Mayor Paul is now working to set up the "Port-au-Prince is struggling" program, the purpose of which is to help improve the living conditions of the population. As a sign of its efforts to restore the proper functioning of the city administration and to allow the employees to receive their wages, the office of the mayor takes this opportunity to publish a letter which Mayor Evans Paul sent to Deputy Mayor Joseph Gerald Salomon and which still has not been answered.

The dramatic situation of the city, which the population gave us the responsibility of managing, compels me to write you this letter so as to reach the compromise essential to the rescue of the municipal institution of our capital, writes Evans Paul to Joseph Gerald Salmon. I invite you to regain your self-control and to comply with the norms and principles that you swore to respect on 17 January 1991 when we were installed at the Court House, Paul adds. Beyond our differences and divergences are the fundamental interests of Port-au-Prince society. We have nothing to win, collectively or individually, in this anarchical situation of an administration that does not offer any services to the community. Within the framework of the "Port-au-Prince is struggling" program, I am ready to meet with you—as a member of the cartel over which I have an electoral mandate to preside—in order to discuss solutions relating to the problem, writes Evans Paul.

I hope you will understand the logic of my steps aimed at normalizing and reinforcing the institutional capability of the city administration to improve the awful conditions of the Port-au-Prince populace.

This press release is signed by Evans Paul, president of the Port-au-Prince Municipal Council.

Deputy Mayor Defends Himself, Seeks Meeting

FL1803002494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Passages in quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpt] Assistant Mayor [Joseph] Gerald Salomon says he is ready to meet with Mayor Evans Paul provided that the press is present. Salomon, who has been accused of hindering the payment of Port-au-Prince City Hall employees, sends the ball into the court of Evans Paul. The assistant mayor of the capital accuses Paul of trying to impose suffering on the employees.

[Begin recording] [Salomon] ...in front of the press, on television. I am ready to meet with the mayor to discuss these problems because it is time that the public be made aware of what is going on within the administration.

"The payroll has been prepared so that the refuse collection employees can be paid for one month. The money has remained in the mayor's hands. Until now, employees have been coming here everyday and none of them has received his salary. Payroll has been prepared for the communal home, but very few of those people have received their salaries. Payroll has been prepared so the mayors can be paid. No mayor has received his salary, except for him [Evans Paul]. Payroll has been prepared for the mortuary service. Until now, the people have been burying the dead every afternoon for 12 months.

"The money has been in the mayor's hands for one month. The money left the Supreme Audit Court on 8 February. At this time, City Hall has over 4 million gourdes in the bank. Nobody has received any salary except the mayor and his driver.

[Unidentified journalist] "You said you are ready to sit face-to-face with Mayor Evans Paul, but in the open, in public...."

[Salomon, interrupting] ...in public so he can provide explanations regarding his infamies. People's money has been in his hands for one month. He has not paid them. This is sad. One cannot make people suffer like that.

[Journalist] "So, if I understand properly, you are not responsible for what is going on today in City Hall?"

[Salomon] I am not. I called representatives of the mayor on several occasions, [asking them] to come here. If paychecks are available, they must find a way to pay the people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UN/OAS Condemns Increase in Capital Violence

FL1703225194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The UN/OAS international civilian mission has publicly noted the increase in violence in Port-au-Prince over the past few days. The mission, which resumed its activities on 31 January, is currently investigating 21 cases of extrajudicial executions and of suspicious deaths that occurred in the capital during the first 15 days of March. Sixteen of those victims were from the slum neighborhood of Cite Soleil. The victims include a student, Mesilia Mesadieux, who was murdered in Delmas 19, and Dady Pierre, who was killed in Cite Soleil. In the latter case, the mission quotes witnesses who saw military personnel and two armed civilians.

Furthermore, the mission counted 50 cases of murder between 31 January and 28 February. The victims include 12 members of grassroots organizations and an Army officer killed in Carrefour-Feuilles.

In concluding its report, the UN/OAS international civilian mission condemned the growing number of extrajudicial executions and suspicious deaths, and has asked the Haitian Armed Forces to take measures to end this cycle of violence. The assessment made by the Port-au-Prince police should also be pointed out: 883 people were arrested for various reasons during the month of February. Two hundred thirteen of the detained were released, and 424 were referred to the court.

Figures Prove NAFTA Successfully Implemented

PA1703002694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by Patricia Gutierrez, from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] The accumulated balance of foreign investments at the end of January 1994 was $68.199 billion. During the first month under NAFTA the dynamism shown in foreign capital investments reflected foreign investors' trust in the national economy's future. In January only, Mexico received $2.371 billion in foreign investments. This amount represents 86 percent of the amount received during the first quarter of 1993.

Meanwhile, $44.111 billion in foreign capital has been received during the current administration. The historical balance of foreign investments at the end of January has been $68.199 billion [number as heard].

[Begin Trade Secretary Jaime Serra recording] The capital we have received has been channeled to new investments, and the funds used in the stock market have helped finance Mexican enterprises. [end recording]

It is appropriate to mention that $60.804 billion of the overall foreign investments, meaning 90 percent, entered through the stock market.

EZLN Issues Communiques on Dialogue, Legal Adviser

Says Government Lying

PA1803044094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 6

[Communique issued by the Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army in Mexico City on 15 March]

[Text] 15 March 1994

To the Mexican people, the world's peoples and governments, the national and international media, brothers:

The Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] addresses all of you with respect and honor.

First—The Federal Government, which usurped the people's will yesterday, is again lying about the dialogue in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The bad government claims that "agreements" were reached when there was only dialogue. The powerful usurped the truth, and they are trying to deceive the people by saying that peace is only a matter of a signature.

Second—There are attempts to forget the main reasons that provoked our uprising by replacing the truth of a dialogue with the lie of an "agreement." The CCRI-CG of the EZLN has made no deal with the Federal Government and has negotiated nothing other than the way in which the dialogue is taking place. Moreover, it has not reached any agreement with the bad government that has been lying for so long.

Third—The CCRI-CG of the EZLN points out that concluding the first phase of the dialogue with lies is the best way to make peace fail. We cannot trust a government that lies, even to make proposals. If the supreme government wishes to present the San Cristobal document as "agreements," then let the list of EZLN demands be the "agreement" and let democracy be guaranteed in the upcoming elections with the resignation of the federal executive.

Fourth—The CCRI-CG of the EZLN respectfully urges the honest national and international media not to play into the crooked game of the usurper and to report, truthfully and objectively, what is happening in the current phase of the dialogue.

Liberty! Justice! Democracy! Respectfully yours from the Mexican Southeast.

[Signed] CCRI-CG of the EZLN

[Dated] Mexico City, March 1994

Cites Duplicity

PA1803054294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 6

[Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army "from the Mexican southeast" on 15 March]

[Text] 15 March 1994

"Shadows of a tender rage; our steps will protect the have-nots."

To the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC), the Mexican people, the people and governments of the world, the national and international press, and brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the Zapatist Army of National Liberation [EZLN] respectfully and honorably addresses all of you in order to state the following:

The Federal Government, yesterday's usurper of the people's power, once again is lying about the dialogue in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The government says there are "agreements," when there was nothing more than a dialogue. Brothers, do not be deceived by their lies; the powerful now seek to usurp the truth, and they are trying to mislead you by saying that peace is only a signature away.

How can there be peace if the ones who caused the war are still calling for the continuation of our poverty? The arrogance that dwells within the government palaces and the houses of the monarchs of commerce and property continues to call for war and for our genocide. They cannot accept that Indian blood might be equal to that of the white man. We seek to become part of the country, yet they continue to block our efforts, and now they repay the sacrifice of our dead with contempt and ridicule.

If they speak with contempt, how can there be peace in these lands, or if they remain silent and murder our brothers? How can we ask our collective heart whether the time has come for peace to enter with dignity through the doors of our impoverished lands? They seek to corner us once again and force us to surrender. Through the destruction of our dignity they seek to force us to accept a peace that represents war to our people.

We will not do it. We will not surrender. If they refuse a fair and honorable peace, then we—the men and women of the shadows—will once again dress for war. Our rage will now rise up from having been deceived. The machetes are once again being sharpened, and our lands will once again wreak of gunpowder.

We are shadows of a tender rage. Our strategy will once again reverberate in the heavens and give shelter to the have-nots and the good men and women who understand

that justice and peace go hand in hand. If they deny our rights, then our tender rage will enter their haughty mansions. We will overrun every wall. No door will remain intact, and no window will remain unbroken. No wall will be left standing. Our shadow will carry sorrow to those who call for war and the genocide of our race. More tears will be spent and more deaths will take place so that peace can sit at humanity's table.

We, the shadows of tender rage, will once again raise our voice to drown out the lies. Our first "enough" was insufficient. The land will not blossom with the blood of our dead.

The men and women of tender rage will have to march once again, our dead will have to rise once again, and the history of our broken hearts will speak once again. Let the deceit and lies cease. Let arrogance in the lands of Mexico perish once and for all. Let the men of women of the shadows, adorned in the dark clothes of tender rage, gather in order that we may silence so many lies.

The powerful should no longer speak. From their lips come poison and decay. They must stop the lies and duplicity.

It is time for our brothers who are following other paths to speak out and carry our grief to new horizons. We want to hear the voices of our brothers from the CEOIC. All of the Indians of this land must speak their minds. The impoverished peasants must not remain silent. The workers in the cities must shout. This warriors' song must be sung by teachers, students, workers, and all of those people who are diminutive in every sense of the word.

Do not leave this heavy banner in our hands alone. Everyone must help carry it. Let us all change the land on which its shadow falls. Mexican brothers, do not forget this voice in the wilderness. The light shed by our dead is very remote. Let us add other lights. Let us end this shameful night once and for all. The time has come for a new dawn.

Let the truth speak. Let its voice be heard now. Let it walk with brave footfalls. We, who have no face or past listen with open hearts and ears. Let the voice of everyone be heard. Let our men and women remain silent, and let this silence continue in the shadows of tender rage. [sentence as published]

All of you must watch over our dreams so that nothing bad will happen to them—so that black shadows will not threaten them. For you, brothers, our hearts continue to beat and our fire continues to burn, and we hope that everything will be well with you so that, in the end, this tender rage will prevail in these lands.

Peace is not possible with deceit. Peace is born of freedom and is nurtured by justice. We are all worthy of democracy.

Cheers, brothers of the CEOIC! Cheers, Indian brothers! Cheers, Mexican brothers! Walk without fear, lift your heads, and pick up your feet. Our weapons are already guarding your path...

Freedom! Justice! Democracy!

Respectfully yours from the Mexican southeast,

[Signed] CCRI-CG of the EZLN

[Dated] Mexico, March 1994

Announces Legal Adviser

PA1803051094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 6

[Communique issued by the Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army "from the Mexican Southeast" on 15 March]

[Text] 15 March 1994

To the people of Mexico, to the people and governments of the world, to the local and international media, brothers:

The CCRI-CG [Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command] of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] addresses all of you with respect and honor to state the following:

Since the phase prior to the San Cristobal dialogue, the CCRI-CG of the EZLN requested legal support with various problems that the war process and the peace process presented for our Army. We received no immediate replies. The righteousness of our struggle was getting lost amid slander and mistrust. Only one reply reached us at the time and it was that of our brothers in the Civic Action National Coordinating Board for National Liberation (CONAC-LN), who offered the support of their legal commission.

We stated our thanks for this gesture, and we gave these people our trust. They will do everything within their power to legally support us. Our needs are great. We welcome the devotion and selflessness of our brothers in the CONAC-LN, and we address the Mexican people to ratify what we recently told these brothers: All the legal affairs of the EZLN will be entrusted to the CONAC-LN's legal commission.

Liberty! Justice! Democracy! Respectfully yours, from the Mexican Southeast.

[Signed] CCRI-CG of the EZLN

[Dated] Mexico, March 1994

CONAC-LN Denies Being 'Political Arm' of EZLN

PA1803053794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 13

[Report by Ricardo Aleman Aleman]

[Text] Upon learning that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] ratified the Civic Action National Coordinating Board for National Liberation (CONAC-LN) as its legal adviser, leaders of this group denied being the "political arm" of the rebels or belonging to the EZLN.

Ricardo Barco and Benito Miron Lince said: "It should be clear that we listen to the opinion of civilian society. We are not seeking to make CONAC grow as an organization. Our representatives have made it very clear that the EZLN is one part of the organization and civilian society is another."

As for the possibility that the coordinating board will harbor other organizations, they pointed out: "Our goal is not to make CONAC grow, but we are not opposed to other organizations either. We are not aiming to become a political organization. We want to listen to civilian society, and those who understand this are welcome."

Barco and Miron insisted: "We are definitely not the political arm of the EZLN, because it is clear that the power that we were given is the power of juridical or legal representation to appear before international forums, authorities, and organizations—a representation that has a legitimate nature granted by the armed group.

"It must also be clear that as members of CONAC's legal commission, we are not EZLN members. We are accepting work as agents in the terms agreed upon with the EZLN. Our capacity as legal representatives will last as long as our client [otorgante] deems it advisable. There are authorities, however, who are demanding representation before a notary public, but that is not possible. There must be no confusion between our mandate and possible sympathies for the EZLN struggle," they pointed out.

Born in the wake of the armed incidents of 1 January 1994 and established on 10 February, CONAC-LN was ratified yesterday as the EZLN legal representative through a letter addressed to the general public and signed by Subcommander Marcos.

The EZLN approved the CONAC-LN's legal commission as the legal representative for the Zapatists. Their first work consisted of a juridical study of proposals made by Commissioner Camacho Solis. Another assignment is the installation of civilian society tables in various states, such as the one installed in Mexico City on 14 March.

Finally, those who are responsible for the CONAC-LN legal commission stated: "One of the EZLN aims is to demonstrate the willingness of the Zapatist movement—the will to achieve a dignified peace."

Peace Commissioner Comments on Dialogue With EZLN

PA1703131294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast—live]

[Excerpt] About 45 minutes ago, we received three Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] communiques from the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army]. In two of the three communiques, the CCRI-CG of the EZLN appeals to the nation and international communities. They are classical communiques by Subcommander Marcos. Nonetheless, one of them attracts more attention because the EZLN openly criticizes the government, pointing out that the reports saying peace agreements have been reached are false. The EZLN says that the first stage of the dialogue has concluded, but this only means precisely that, the first stage of the dialogue has concluded. No specific agreements have been reached for signing a peace agreement. The communique points out that consultations continue to be held in Lacandona jungle, in the EZLN-controlled communities, and that these consultations will continue. The important thing to remember is that one must not think this first dialogue has led to the signing of specific agreements. The EZLN points out that a lot still remains to be done.

Regarding this communique which circulated today in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Manuel Camacho Solis, special commissioner for peace and reconciliation, was here in San Cristobal de las Casas. First, he met with the coleta [natives of San Cristobal de las Casas] community to discuss the problems that have arisen within this dialogue process causing serious unhappiness among many of the residents of the area. They have had problems with their normal lives, and now they have another problem stemming from the land squatters. Let us listen to what Manuel Camacho Solis had to say in the news conference when he referred to all of this and settled some doubts on the most recent EZLN communique dated 15 March, which we received here today.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] I am going to be very brief, as I am about to leave and return to Mexico City. I want to report on two very important points. The first refers to the meeting I had with the various groups from the city of San Cristobal de las Casas, where there has been a certain amount of tension. We have reached an atmosphere of cordiality, however, and we have searched for the path of reconciliation for everyone, and all the groups fully support the entire peace dialogue process occurring in the State of Chiapas, particularly the city of San Cristobal.

Concerning the dialogue, I would like to take advantage of my visit here to strongly insist on a point that the media has not made sufficiently clear and which could cause confusion. The point is: The EZLN presented its list of demands. The government, through me, made a counteroffer. This counteroffer is being presented to the communities for consideration. At no time, has it been said... [pauses] nor can it be said that these are the points of the agreement. We have made a lot of progress because we were able to establish a dialogue, but these discussions are most important. If the situation is not sufficiently clear, this could create the wrong idea among the communities with regard to the good will there has been in the entire peace process. I want to ask you to help us with this clarification because otherwise the wrong idea about the nature of the process could be reached. Now, the most important thing is that there are two basic issues:

One, this is a process of searching for peace, which we are going to pursue regardless of the circumstances. Two, this is what allowed us to hold a dialogue. The dialogue is of great value. We are not going to stop talking under any circumstances. We have learned that the EZLN is a serious organization with leaders that have clear political ideas, and this factor is going to help us overcome any confusion and tension which is sometimes generated by the wrong interpretation of public messages.

I repeat: There was a list of demands; the government countered with a proposal that is being presented for consultation and approval by the communities. Second, we are pursuing the path of peace, dialogue, and a political solution which will not be changed. This commissioner is fully committed to overcoming any confusion and continuing to move forward on the path the State of Chiapas and all of Mexican society wants.

I think this clarifies the two important points. The situation in San Cristobal is clear; the points of conflict will be resolved. This afternoon, I met with all sectors of society. Therefore, the correct atmosphere for the peace process prevails here. The other central point is about the meeting, which I think is very important, to clearly establish that we respect the procedures and what we talked about in San Cristobal with the EZLN. Thank you very much [end recording] [passage omitted]

Officer Cites Anti-EZLN Measures

94P20514A

[Editorial Report] The 27 February Mexico City daily REFORMA cites a "high-level military officer assigned to Chiapas" who states that satellites and other means are being used to plan for a possible offensive against the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), should peace negotiations break down. The officer, who asked that his name be withheld, says: "Military Intelligence continues to work, even during the cease-fire period and the peace dialogue,...to discover access routes into the mountains and the forest. Satellites are being used to identify Zapatist assembly areas, new entry routes for infantry units, and drop zones for Mexican Army parchutists." He also notes that "we have found new exit routes, and the more we look the more we find; this is ongoing because we have got to be ready for any eventuality, in case there is no [peace] accord."

EZLN Representatives Initiate Consultation

PA1703163394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0652 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Mar (EFE)—A delegation believed to be associated with the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) is in Mexico City to discuss the agreements between the EZLN and Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas.

The so-called Civilian Society Board has its headquarters in Zocalo, Mexico City's urban and political center, and is expected to continue operating until 10 April, the anniversary of the murder of revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata, the name the guerrillas decided to adopt during their 1 January insurrection.

The discussion is somewhat similar to what the EZLN is already doing in the Laconda jungle and Altos de Chiapas communities. It is aimed at obtaining approval or disapproval of the agreements signed on 3 March in San Cristobal de las Casas, located 780 km southeast of Mexico City.

In the capital city, the Judicial Commission of the Civic Action National Coordinator for National Liberation (CONAC-LN), founded by Benito Miron, former official of the Federal Labor Board, and Ricardo Barco, leader of the Proletariat Independent Movement (MPI), organized the consultation. Both said they have documents signed by EZLN military leader Subcommander Marcos where the military leader acknowledges them as his legal representatives in Mexico City. They both said that during the consultation they expect to learn society's opinion on whether or not the government's answers satisfy the demands that prompted the EZLN to take up arms. The consultation also seeks to establish society's opinion on whether or not the agreement between the government and the guerrillas will allow peace with dignity, which is one of the Zapatists' main demands.

In addition, the discussion tables will receive general proposals to be included in a "list of proposals by the civilian society which will be sent to the EZLN and the Mexican Government to be taken into account in possible future dialogues."

The CONAC-LN foresees the establishment of similar discussion tables in other cities, according to Miron and Barco, who disclosed the results of a legal study on the previous agreements between the Zapatist guerrillas and the government. According to analysts, the official responses to the Zapatists were made "in a confusing, evasive language void of concrete proposals."

In February, the EZLN offered to present all the agreements reached by the 19 delegates of the Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee with Camacho Solis in a referendum. The encounter that lasted 10 days took place at the more than 100-year-old San Cristobal de las Casa cathedral, and Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, dioceses official, was the mediator.

The Zapatist delegates presented 34 demands, 32 on the social and economic situation of 1 million Indians in Chiapas to which Camacho Soils offered, in the government's behalf, 34 solutions. After that meeting, the Zapatists discussed each of the agreements with the communities under their influence in Altos de Chiapas and the Laconada Jungle, where allegedly approximately 300,000 persons live.

The government refused to discuss national policies with the EZLN. The EZLN had demanded Carlos Salinas de Gortari's resignation or a change in the electoral legislation to guarantee impartiality of the 21 August presidential elections.

Guatemala's De Leon Continues Visit

Announces Creation of Committee

PA1703190094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has announced the creation of a Guatemalan-Mexican binational trade committee. During the second day of his visit to Mexico, Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio held a working meeting with members of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs, CEMAI. He told Mexican and Guatemalan businessmen that the big challenges facing Latin America today are to fight poverty, to increase production, and to eliminate the banners of subversion, because there are those who use poverty and injustice as banners to destabilize.

The Guatemalan president announced the creation of a binational committee headed by the Mexican trade secretary and Guatemalan trade minister so that access to both markets will be facilitated at the government level. Later, Ramiro de Leon Carpio met for 30 minutes with Mr. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, president of the National Human Rights Commission. At the end of the meeting the Guatemalan president said that the task of a human rights defender is difficult in any country, but that it is even more complicated when there are movements, such as the one earlier this year in the State of Chiapas.

[Begin de Leon recording] I have said so very frankly and very sincerely, as I am accustomed to speaking. I envy you. I envy you, because I would have liked it if the internal armed conflict in Guatemala could have been resolved as quickly as this confrontation was solved here. [end recording]

Later, the Guatemalan president made a private visit to the San Angel Televisa Studios. President Ramiro de Leon Carpio ended his official visit by meeting in the afternoon with a Guatemalan delegation in Mexico.

Discusses Peace Process, Accord

PA1703170794 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has described the pacification process of the armed conflict in Chiapas State, which the Mexican Government is conducting, as enviable.

[Begin De Leon recording] Speaking with total frankness and sincerity, as is my custom, I envy you. I envy you because I wish Guatemala's internal conflict or armed strife would have been resolved as quickly as it was resolved here. [end recording]

Interviewed at the conclusion of a private meeting with Jorge Madrazo Cullar, National Human Rights Committee chairman, the Guatemalan president said a bilateral cooperation agreement dealing with individual guarantees will be signed soon.

PRD Presidential Candidate Cardenas Interviewed

PY1803001094 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Mar 94 p A26

[Interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, presidential candidate for the Mexican Democratic Revolutionary Party, by Roberto Lameirinhas—place and date not given]

[Text] [Lameirinhas] What is your opinion of the Zapatist uprising on 1 January in Chiapas State?

[Cardenas] The Zapatist National Liberation Army made people aware of the predatory system of unfairness and discrimination that the indigenous communities have endured for centuries. It also revealed that, from the socioeconomic viewpoint, the neoliberal and technocratic schemes were unfeasible, as well as the unpostponable need to end the current state party role played by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], which has been corrupt, antipatriotic, and arbitrary. The uprising revealed the existence of an obsolete and anachronistic regime. It also showed an unpopular and isolated president (Salinas de Gortari) who is aware of his illegitimate origin, who went from a state of inaction to a state of meaningless and useless action. The uprising awoke Mexican awareness. It is an extremely painful experience due to the people who died, the wounds it caused to the country's society, the abuses committed. The executions, the common graves, the cases of torture could have and should have been avoided by the government by means of political leadership aware of its current and future military and human duties.

[Lameirinhas] Did the demonstrations in Mexico City demanding equal electoral and political opportunities by any means spark the Chiapas uprising?

[Cardenas] The Chiapas uprising took place within a context in which civilian society had been demanding, for the past five years, a transition toward democracy and political reform. We have asserted that the lack of political reforms and reliable elections under Salinas' regime is unsustainable. These demands, repeatedly made by the Mexican Armed Forces, are what had been heard since the 1 January uprising.

[Lameirinhas] What is your party's stance regarding the uprising?

[Cardenas] We want a peaceful, rewarding, and fair solution for Chiapas, that is, a deep-rooted reform. We understand the reasons that drove the indigenous communities to despair. They were trapped by a deaf, blind, and despotic regime. Moreover, we have effectively participated in the peaceful rebellion of civilian society, which reasserted its choice for peace and democracy and, at the same time, saved lives and avoided bigger problems by getting the government to call a cease-fire and start peace negotiations in the Chiapas region. The solutions to the Chiapas problem have a national and foreign component. It would be a mistake and risky to separate one from the other. The local solution demands structural changes strongly linked to the state and the region. This is not possible without affecting unjust and illegitimate interests that have existed for years. The communities must recover their rights and assets. An exhaustive land reform is necessary, and the power structure of the "bosses" must be changed so the people can have the possibility of electing their own authorities. Moreover, the great deficiencies in education, health, housing, and highway services must be solved. Job opportunities and greater equity in the trading of local products must be granted. The privileges of large landowners must be eliminated. We favor contributing to all forms of mobilization of the indigenous groups and society in order to eliminate racism and the depredation of natural resources.

[Lameirinhas] What does your party think about NAFTA?

[Cardenas] I want to make it clear that the PRD is not against Mexico engaging in competition with the world market and its participation in NAFTA. But it should be pointed out that we need to assess the great impact this opening will have on the agricultural sector and other productive sectors, especially the micro, small, and medium enterprises that were not included in the negotiations. We now must work on adapting to the new terms of competition.

[Lameirinhas] The latest polls show you as the second most popular candidate. Are these figures reliable?

[Cardenas] Polls in Mexico have never been very reliable and, in the past, have been subject to manipulation. We also have seen that people automatically answer that they will vote for the official party in order to protect themselves from possible retaliation by a repressive and authoritarian political regime.

[Lameirinhas] Are there any chances of fraud in the August elections?

[Cardenas] In order to guarantee the authenticity of the elections, Congress must amend the 1990, '92, and '93 constitutional amendments that greatly distort the people's choices. The PRD submitted a report on the 1994 electoral process to the Federal Elections Institute General Council. The report refers to the illegal aspects of the process based on: first, discretionary control exercised by the government and the PRI on the electoral organizations; second, control over the right to vote through the partial manipulation of the voters lists and registration of voters; third, unfair distribution and discriminating control over resources supplied by the government to the political parties; fourth, unfair access by opposition parties and the PRI to the mass media, especially television; and fifth, supervision of the electoral process, during all its phases, by PRI and government authorities.

Roundup of Mexican Electoral Developments

PA1703214394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the Mexican elections scheduled for 21 August 1994.

On 8 March, Oscar Espinoza Villareal, finance secretary for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, denied reports that his party had a special fund for the business sector to make donations to Luis Donaldo Colosio's presidential campaign. During a meeting of the PRI National Territorial Movement, Espinoza said "his party does not depend solely on the business sector for funds, and it would not use the sector as a means of finding other sources." He called on party leaders "to be wise in spending campaign money so as to prevent misunderstandings." (Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 9 Mar 94 p 11A)

On 10 March, PRI candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio met with trade and service leaders in Mexico City and offered to deregulate certain areas of the government bureaucracy which affects them. He said he would set "clear rules to eliminate subjective decisions and extensively simplify the tax process." He asked the leaders to present proposals during the campaign. Through dialogue, he said, "I want to find the best ways for the country to move into the 21st Century as a more sovereign and just nation." In addressing unemployment and the contribution of small and medium enterprise, he affirmed that "more guarantees should be offered for those who take the risk to invest." (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Mar 94 p 5)

On 10 March, PRI Candidate Colosio met with hundreds of radio and television industry businessmen,

executives, and workers. He told them that "Mexico is a more informed, demanding, and critical nation." Therefore, he added, "information is fundamental for transforming Mexico." He said: "PRI and its presidential candidate are not afraid of political competition, but we do fear political incompetence." Pointing out that PRI was the first to call a debate, he said: "We want Mexican men and women to have access to better information to make their decisions." (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 Mar 94)

PRI Candidate Luis Colosio attended several events on 10 March, including breakfast with the Rotary Club, lunch with party leaders, and dinner with members of the Mexican-Lebanese community. The message was the same at all three: Mexico has set its course, and that course will lead to social well-being. "I believe we must look toward our grass-roots communities," he said, "because nothing grows from the sky down. Everything grows from the ground up." (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 94)

Luis Colosio visited Nuevo Leon University on 14 March. There he said that "Mexico requires a gradual democratic transformation. Pluralism is what makes us stronger." He stressed that in such a system "all Mexicans will have the wonderful opportunity to decide and to elect." (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 15 mar)

On 9 March upon arrival in Monterrey for a meeting with university students, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, presidential candidate for the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD, said his party is totally independent from the government system. He expressed regret that there were no other independent candidates or parties, except for Pablo Emilio Madero, who is running for the National Opposition Union. He said Diego Fernandez de Cevallos of the National Action Party, PAN, and Rafael Aguilar Talamantes of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, PFCRN, are playing the government's game.

The meeting between Cardenas and the students took place at the Monterrey Technological Institute and was broadcast by satellite to several other universities throughout the country. He said: "Social spending should be planned responsibly, effectively, and efficiently, and without political conditions. This is the area that has seen the least progress in the past few years." He added that "inefficiency, corruption, waste, and selectiveness has been the general tone" in this area. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Mar 94)

PRD Candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas addressed proposals presented by the business sector on 9 March. "I do not know all the details," he stated, "but I am pleased that they agree with what I, as the candidate of the country's democratic forces, have been proposing to save our economy. I hope the business sector is, as they say, determined to offer their help in saving the country." (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 mar 94)

PAN presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos and presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres, for the Mexican Green Ecologist Party, PEM, visited the National Autonomous University on 11 March. Fernandez de Cevallos spoke to chemistry students and said the nation's universities should serve as forums for political debate between presidential candidates. He said there should be better ties between the business sector and the universities to enhance specific areas of study.

Meanwhile, PEM candidate Gonzalez Torres met with political science students and warned that Chiapas is an example of what can happen when there is no authentic democratic expression. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 94)

Jorge Gonzalez Torres was formally registered on 14 March as the presidential candidate for the PEM. After the ceremony, he suggested holding a runoff election for the August contest. Gonzalez said: "It would be very good for Mexico." "If none of the candidates get 40 percent of the vote," he explained, "a run off election should be held. If the abstention rate reaches 30 or 40 percent, the number of votes that the winner receives would still be small, but never less than 20 percent." (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 94)

On 10 March, Pablo Emilio Madero registered as the Mexican Democratic Party's presidential candidate for the August election. Following his presentation at the Federal Electoral Institute, Madero said: "We should think about electoral code reforms for the future. We can meditate, discuss, and implement them later, but it will not be possible for this election." He also spoke in favor of appointing electoral prosecutors to prosecute electoral crimes. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 Mar 94)

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1503204094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 15 March.

According to a survey by EL FINANCIERO NORESTE EMPRESARIAL, the 12 most important industrial groups in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State experienced a 3 percent drop in profits because of instability in the international markets, the economic recession in Mexico, the high cost of money, and a drop in the peso's competitiveness compared to the U.S. dollar. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 12)

According to the National Iron and Steel Chamber, Mexican iron and steel companies will invest $500

million this year; 50 percent of which corresponds to the modernization process and environmental protection measures to be adopted by the Northern Steel Group. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 12)

According to Jorge Tamayo, general director of the Mexican National Railroads, railroad freight has increased 5 percent over the past two years but it has still not reached 1987-88 levels when almost 60 million tons were transported by railroad. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 36)

According to the National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data Processing, 508,000 manufacturing workers lost their jobs in 1993. It also said that by the end of 1993, only 46.5 percent of the economically active population, estimated last year to be approximately 25.38 million people, had formal jobs. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9 Mar 94 pp 1, 52)

Even though Aeromexico and Mexicana de Aviacion airlines sustained 249 million pesos in losses in 1993, the consortium that operates both companies did better than its six closest foreign competitors. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 Mar 94 p 47)

Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) and Protexa have announced the creation of an air freight service company with domestic capital. Pemex will participate with 49 percent of the stocks, and Protexa will be the leading shareholder. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 Mar 94 p 47)

The Confederation of Mexican Workers revealed that during the current administration, 10 million Mexicans lost their jobs and those with jobs do not receive any benefits, social security benefits, and earn less than the minimum wage. It described the labor situation in the country as "alarming" because new jobs were not created between 1992 and 1993. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Mar 94 p 9)

Inflation was reduced 0.5 percent in February. It is the lowest February inflation rate in the last 22 years. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 10 Mar 94)

Today, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that in the past five years, Mexico has doubled its exports from $21 billion to $42 billion. He added that exports experienced an annual growth of 11 percent. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0345 GMT 11 Mar 94)

According to Mexican Stock Exchange figures, 84.2 percent of foreign capital invested in the Mexican Stock Exchange is concentrated in 15 companies, which makes foreign investment in national stocks very volatile. The Mexican Telephone System, alone, owns 40.3 percent of all foreign investments. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Mar 94 p 8)

According to Banamex (National Bank of Mexico), the huge regional development imbalance is evident after reports indicated that two states, Nuevo Leon and the Federal District, with 13.95 percent of the total population, concentrate 35.63 and 33.81 percent of the country's federal public investment and Gross Domestic Product respectively. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 Mar 94 p 9)

The Commerce Secretariat has reported that Mexico received $2.371 billion in foreign investments in January 1994, which represents 86 percent of total investments during the first half of 1993. The largest foreign investors in Mexico during the last six years were: the United States with 63.8 percent, France with 4.5 percent, UK with 4.5 percent, Switzerland with 4.4 percent, Germany with 3.5 percent, Netherlands with 2.5 percent, and Japan with 2 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1523 GMT 14 Mar 94)

According to an analysis drafted by the Bancomer Financial Group, public finances will register a 0.9 percent deficit by the end of this year as a result of the concentration of public expenditures in the first half of 1994. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 Mar 94 p 49)

Costa Rica

Calderon, Niehaus Criticize U.S. Pressure on OAS Vote

PA1803032594 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Mar 94 p 11A

[Report By Jose Alberto Briceno]

[Text] On 8 March in Washington D.C., Foreign Relations Minister Bernd Niehaus asked Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to urge the United States to stop "twisting" the arms of Caribbean nations to get them to support Colombian President Cesar Gaviria's bid to become OAS secretary general.

The minister met with Watson before departing for Santiago, Chile, where he will attend President-elect Eduardo Frei's inauguration. President Gaviria and Oscar Arias, former Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will also attend the inauguration. Arias also has expressed interest in obtaining the OAS post.

President Rafael Angel Calderon said the only topic Niehaus and Watson discussed at their 8 March meeting was the upcoming election for the post of OAS secretary general.

Calderon added: "We respect the U.S. position to choose President Gaviria, but we cannot accept the twisting of arms of small Caribbean nations. Niehaus wanted to make this point very clear." Calderon made these statements at the inauguration of the Monument to the Costa Rican Teacher.

In addition, the head of state stressed that Foreign Minister Niehaus told Watson he expects to maintain good relations with the United States as OAS secretary general.

The Foreign Ministry's Press Office reported that Deputy Foreign Minister Hernan Castro is visiting Saint Vincent to meet with representatives of the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) to discuss banana marketing strategies. This visit also seeks to reinforce bilateral relations in the wake of statements by Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington, who said at least three countries in the region—namely, Dominica, Saint Vincent, and Saint Lucia—had withdrawn their support for the Costa Rican OAS candidacy.

Niehaus, however, noted that this problem has been completely overcome and that he still has 22 votes in his favor, including the votes of the 13 small Caricom states. Meanwhile, President Calderon underscored that he has been in contact with the Caribbean ministers, adding that Costa Rica is proposing a fair and balanced plan that will not hurt their economies.

Costa Rica has advocated the broadening of the quota system while maintaining a contingency [contingente] that favors the islands to ensure that bananas continue to be their main source of revenue.

Figueres Announces Cabinet Structure

PA1803030794 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Mar 94 p 4a

[Text] Yesterday, by publicly announcing the structure of his cabinet during an event at the National Museum, President-elect Jose Maria Figueres disclosed that his future government will function based on a system of five operational fields.

The ministries will operate under specific fields in accordance with their respective disciplines in such a way that they may be able to tackle the country's problems as a team. Each of the ministries will be supervised by a general coordinator.

Three of the fields will be institutional renovation, which will be coordinated by Rodrigo Oreamuno, second vice president-elect; the economic sector, which will be coordinated by Carlos Manuel Castillo (who is also Central Bank executive president); and the social sector, which will be coordinated by Rebeca Grynspan, first vice president-elect. The other fields will be sustainable growth, coordinated by Carlos Espinach; and security, supervised by Elias Soley, who has also been selected as minister of the presidency.

"These fields do not cover all government tasks, but we will try to coordinate fundamental aspects of the country's reality and take advantage of this plan to implement mechanisms that will expedite government decisions despite current institutional limitations," Figueres commented. The president-elect warned that in selecting his ministers he tried to combine honesty, the ability to work as a team, inclination for sacrifice, professional excellence, public and private life qualifications, equanimity, the ability to reach agreements, loyalty, and commitment to the principles of government programs. "I am convinced that each one of those who have accepted their nomination as minister, will let their work account for the decision to appoint them as government ministers," the president pointed out.

In concluding his speech, Figueres took hold of the same mallet which, 45 years earlier his father, Jose Figueres Ferrer, had held to strike the walls of what was then the Army General Headquarters and today houses the National Museum. Figueres, overwhelmed by emotion and with broken sentences, stated amid continuous rounds of applause: "Forty-five years ago in this same spot and with this same mallet given to me this morning by a friend... Don Pepe [Figueres Sr.] came to tear down some walls so that instead of armies we would have schools, universities, health, and welfare. Today with this same mallet in this same spot with all humility and enthusiasm, we come to tear down the walls of intolerance ... overtaken with fervor and eagerness to work, let us tear down the walls of parochialism and incomprehension in our country..."

He called on all Costa Ricans to exercise their right to "healthy criticism and supervision of the government's performance," since he acknowledges the importance of exchanging opinions. "However, there is also a need for national unity so that the Costa Rican family, despite its political affiliation, can solve the [country's] problems and so that these next four years may be truly productive," Figueres concluded.

Appointments

Institutional Renovation Sphere
Planning: Leonardo Garnier
Culture: Arnoldo Mora
Foreign Relations: Fernando Naranjo

Social Sphere
Health: German Weinstock
Education: Eduardo Doryan
Housing: Edgar Arroyo
Rural Development (solving peasant problems): Ruben Solorzano Costa Rican Social Security Fund: Ana Gabriela Ross

Economic Sphere
Central Bank: Carlos Manuel Castillo
Finance: Fernando Herrero
Economy, Industry, Commerce: Marcos Vargas
Agriculture: Mario Carvajal Foreign Trade: Jose Rossi

Sustainable Growth Sphere
Natural Resources, Energy, and Mines: Rene Castro
Science and Technology: Roberto Dobles
Public Works and Transportation: Bernardo Arce (minister) and Francisco Nicolas (vice-minister)

Security Sphere
Presidency: Elias Soley
Information: Flory Rodriguez
Government: Mauren Clarke
Public Security: Juan Diego Castro
Justice: Enrique Castillo
Labor: Farid Ayales

Ministers Without Portfolio
Tourism: Carlos Roesch
Special Projects (priority problems): Longino Soto
Regional Coordination (presidency - cantons relations): Sergio Quiros

Special Advisers
Economy and Business Sector: Calixto Chaves
Working Groups Coordination: Victor Ojeda
Presidential Assistant: Roberto Hidalgo
Trade Negotiator: Luis Diego Escalante
Autonomous, INS [National Insurance Institute]: Alejandro Soto.

El Salvador

FMLN Claims Government Failing To Comply With Accords

PA1703030394 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Report by Daisy Villalobos from the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said on 14 March that the Alfredo Cristiani administration has not complied with important aspects of the peace agreements. FMLN leader Leonel Gonzalez [Salvador Sanchez Ceren] listed four issues that are still pending: public security, land transfer, the program to return former guerrillas to civilian life, and compliance with the Truth Commission recommendations.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] In terms of the public security issue, according to the program to disband the National Police, there should also be a program to reduce the size of the organization. This program has been suspended, and, therefore, the peace plan is not being complied with. Their idea is to leave about 3,000 national policemen working until October and later recruit them for the National Civilian Police [PNC]. This will mark another failure to comply with the agreements. As for the PNC deployment, according to the agreements, this process should end in September at the latest, but the government wants to postpone it until December. A postponement would be another failure to comply with the peace agreements.

Yet another example of noncompliance is the distortion of the PNC. We have pointed out this problem since 1993, but it has not been corrected. Its civilian nature is not being respected. In addition, there is no training to ensure that new agents respect life and human rights. Many PNC agents who are linked to the [word indistinct] are resorting to the traditional methods employed by the repressive corps.

As for land transfer, 70 percent of the land has not been transferred. In other words, about 20,000 people are facing uncertainty because land has not been transferred to them.

As for the program to return former guerrillas to civilian life, the most worrisome aspect is that former fighters who already have land have not yet received loans. The time to sow is close at hand, and our companeros are not yet sure whether they will receive the necessary loans to farm the land. [end recording]

The FMLN accused the government of hindering the advancement of the pending agreements and noted that there is a new timetable proposed by Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] that the government has ignored. Leonel Gonzalez believes the government wants

to continue ignoring the agreements to punish former fighters, dodge its responsibility, and merge the National Police with the PNC.

Presidential Debate on Public Security

PA1603230694

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 1245 GMT on 16 March broadcasts live a 105-minute debate on the topic of public security with Salvadoran presidential candidates: Dr. Ruben Zamora, candidate for the Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-National Revolutionary Movement coalition; Dr. Rhina Escalante de Rey Prendes, candidate for the Authentic Christian Movement; Dr. Fidel Chavez Mena, candidate for the Christian Democratic Party; Edgardo Rodriguez Eigenhart, candidate for the National Solidarity Movement; and Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia, candidate for the National Conciliation Party. Absent from the debate were: Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, and Jorge Martinez Menendez, presidential candidate for the Unity Movement. This is the second of three scheduled presidential debates organized by Canal Doce Television in the 1994 Salvadoran presidential campaign and moderated by Mauricio Funes.

Based on a drawing, Chavez is the first to speak. When asked what he would do to solve the problem of crime and provide public security in El Salvador, Chavez says he has a five-point plan to fight this problem. "We would first take security measures to protect citizens, and secondly, we would take judicial, corrective, and preventive measures. Finally, we would take measures to compensate victims. As for the police measures or measures to ensure the protection of citizens, a very important aspect is the rescheduling of the peace agreements in this area, which is so important for the peace agreements. I would not like to list the other measures for reasons of time and because I do not want to tire the television viewer," he says. Chavez adds: "We have to increase the number of policemen as a deterrent. Police presence is important especially if it is strategically distributed among the population. We have been pointing out since 1991, that there is a need to deploy 10,000 policemen at this time. We currently have nearly 6,000 civilian policemen, who graduated from the Public Security Academy." Chavez ends by saying: "We have the problem of private services to deal with, we have to fight impunity and corruption, and we need resources to satisfy our financial needs."

The next candidate to answer the same question is Rodriguez. He says: "We believe the National Civilian Police, PNC, in view of the urgent need to implement the peace agreement, has been poorly trained. We believe the length of training was too short. A good policeman needs approximately two years to be well trained and he needs to be in a constant retraining stage to have a better awareness of the laws, procedures, investigative techniques, and human rights. We also believe that since the deadline is rapidly approaching, the National Police must hand over to the PNC all its equipment, weapons, transportation and communications equipment, and all other logistics supplies so as to immediately strengthen the PNC with the resources already in the country without the need to incur greater debts."

Presidential candidate Zamora, when explaining the steps he would take to fight crime, says: "We must end the impunity given to organized crime by the government in our country and we must also draft judicial reforms." "We must support the deployment and development of the PNC. Those are the three major points of our public security policy." Zamora says that during the first six months of his government, the following measures would be taken: "We are going to completely review all the irregularities in the fulfillment of the peace agreements regarding the PNC. The UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] sent a letter to the UN secretary general pointing out all the ways in which this government has failed to comply with the real purpose of the PNC. Secondly, we also have to deploy the PNC before September. The Police Academy says it should be ready by September. We also have to completely reorganize the Interior and Public Security Ministry because starting in July, the PNC will be under the control of the Interior Ministry."

Zamora also lists his three great national campaigns. "Our first campaign is against organized crime. Starting on 1 June and running through 31 December we have to take exemplary measures so that organized crime understands that if it violates the law, it will pay for it in our government. Our second campaign is the national disarmament campaign to collect all weapons of war in private hands and to register weapons. Remember that a law was passed in January to register all weapons in private hands within a 90-day period. This government has done nothing. An office to receive permit requests has not even been set up. We will have to extend the 90-day grace period and do it right so that our Armed Forces can really conduct this campaign promptly. The third campaign is the national campaign to clean up public administration. We are going to fight government corruption and contraband beginning on our first day in office."

Dr. Rhina Escalante de Rey Prendes, the only woman candidate running for the Salvadoran Presidency, says she disagrees with the dissolution of the security corps and that "the logical thing would have been a gradual purge of the Treasury Police and the National Guard." She adds that if she wins the election she will review the peace agreements and propose to the United Nations that "as long as we do not have a well-equipped PNC with enough members, the present National Police should continue to operate, forgetting about this year's October deadline." She adds that "with an efficient police force and good cooperation from citizens, we should be able to improve justice administration to provide better guarantees to witnesses and accelerate the

proceedings to prevent bureaucracy from discouraging citizens wishing to cooperate."

Finally, Roberto Escobar Garcia agrees with Rey Prendes and says that "the sudden dissolution of the public security corps, the National Guard, and the Treasury Police left a terrible void in the country that has not been filled." He says that the PNC should be trained to prevent crime rather than repress it and that it must be turned into an auxiliary body within the administration of justice.

Moderator Mauricio Funes then asks if the candidates think the National Police can operate without the security corps and if the current system should be kept. Chavez answers by saying that despite the flaws the peace agreements should be observed. "In this regard, the Armed Forces can help by conducting air patrols. We must evidently extend the disarmament law," Chavez says.

As for transferring resources from the National Police to the PNC, Rodriguez Eigenhart says: "Foreign assistance to strengthen the PNC could be sought, but a greater budget for the PNC can be allocated in the national budget. Every time we talk about problems we only think about asking for foreign aid. Why not think about curtailing public expenditures so that we do not have to depend on what may or may not come from abroad?"

When asked about the lack of security in the streets because of the absence of the security corps, presidential candidate Escobar Garcia says: "We have to create a strong link between the PNC and the Attorney General's Office. The former can prevent crimes from being committed, and the latter can conduct technical investigations after crimes have been committed." The National Police has to be strengthened as much as possible even though the foreign assistance that has been promised has not arrived yet, Escobar Garcia says.

Chavez Mena talks about the importance of making deep judicial, constitutional, and criminal code reforms. "We have to classify the different types of criminals. We have to implement new punishment alternatives and insist on solving the impunity problem." He insists that the fundamental responsibility for any of the mistakes that may have been committed in the peace agreements lies with Arena's lack of responsibility.

Finally, the candidates discuss problems of contraband, corruption, and the breakdown of moral values in the country.

CD-FMLN-MNR Coalition Platform Outlined

PA1803020094 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Mar 94 p 9A

[Text] In its government platform for the 20 March elections, the coalition comprising Democratic Convergence [CD], the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], and the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] promises to ensure an orderly transition to a new stage of historic development in terms of democracy, economic growth, and social justice.

The program, which is entitled "A Proposal for Dialogue," includes the following areas:

Democratization

The coalition proposes the free organization and constant participation of the people in state decisions, the strengthening of political pluralism, and an electoral system that guarantees clean elections.

The coalition also recommends granting autonomy to government branches; reforming the legislative branch; reforming the judicial system; banning illegal arrests, home searches, and espionage; and eradicating foundations of organized crime.

The coalition promises to guarantee freedom of worship and improve government relations with all churches; establish a women's ministry and a commission for female attorneys to repeal discriminatory laws and advance women in public positions; and fight discrimination against ethnic groups, as well as combat discrimination against the disabled and the elderly.

New Form of Governing

The coalition offers to include all sectors in the decisionmaking process to prevent the unilateral imposition of its policies, as well as to seek creative contributions from private enterprise, workers, and local communities.

It pledges to fight crime and the institutional impunity that protects organized crime and corruption. It promises to respect freedom of expression and private property.

It pledges to settle accounts regarding public finances and to eliminate corruption, to transfer resources and decisionmaking power to the municipalities, and to modernize public administration.

The coalition offers to guarantee Salvadorans the right to air, water, and life [al aire, al agua y a la vida]; to promote a culture of peace; and to abide by the constitutional mandate to promote education for all.

Security for the People

The coalition promises to counter organized crime in its first year of government, while also controlling corruption among public officials.

The coalition will transform the Civilian National Police into a modern, professional, civilian-led institution with new values and respect for human rights.

It promises to give policemen a career marked by dignity and professionalism.

It offers to re-collect combat weapons that remain in the hands of civilians and to enforce strict control of firearms in terms of both individuals and groups.

It offers to guarantee compensation and programs to reintegrate National Police officers into civilian life.

Productive Transformation for Human Development

The coalition's general objectives include fair and sustainable economic development, as well as an organized campaign to fight poverty and promote social development and overall democratization.

The basic principles are the participation and integration of the masses in the socioeconomic development plan, along with the development of new economic forces.

The coalition pledges to develop a market economy combined with government actions that promote and activate efficient distributive, regulatory, and corrective policies. It also commits itself to the democratization, decentralization, reorganization, and modernization of the state.

The coalition proposes an economic policy based on genuine competitiveness, equality, and intersectorial integration.

The coalition endorses the creation of an atmosphere of stability and trust by way of a social pact. To promote the practice of reaching a consensus among workers; large-, medium-, and small-scale private enterprises; cooperatives; communities; and nongovernmental organizations [NGO's].

It promises to fight hunger and malnutrition and overcome food shortages to increase the people's productivity. It also promises to support, guarantee, and protect free competition and consumer's rights.

Human Development

The coalition plans to create a national health system to cover the entire population—one that caters to high-risk groups on a priority basis; places emphasis on prevention; decentralizes health care services by supporting local facilities; controls the cost of pharmaceuticals to give the people access to affordable medicine; and offers fair wages, promotions based on merit, and training to health care workers.

It promises to review academic programs, to evaluate the objectives of the educational system, to provide more funds, to train teachers and provide incentives for teachers in rural areas; and to decentralize the educational administration. It also intends to create a national cultural and art fund, as well as make the National Commission for Art and Culture an autonomous organization with ministerial rank.

It plans to approve the sports law and to create a Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Recreation.

The coalition promises to guarantee the reintegration of former combatants into productive life.

Environment

The coalition promises to earmark funding for environmental rescue projects, financially support the NGO's, promulgate a general law on the environment, and include environmental education in the national educational system. It also promises to protect water, forest, and clean air resources in urban areas and to take steps to prevent pollution and poisoning caused by agricultural chemicals and industrial wastes.

Salvadorans Overseas

The coalition intends to seek an extension of the program for deferred mandatory departures from the United States until after 31 December 1994, to create a "Commission for Salvadoran Immigrants," and to sponsor programs that encourage citizens living overseas to invest in El Salvador.

Foreign Policy

The coalition promises to sponsor the Central American integration process; to employ means of financial and technical cooperation with foreign governments; to establish bilateral relations with all countries of the world, particularly with the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean nations.

It also promises to gradually open Salvadoran markets, to strengthen domestic industry, and to revitalize the country's participation in international forums such as the UN and OAS. It also vows to review past efforts to enable the consultative group created by the Chapultepec Accords to increase its cooperation in rebuilding the nation.

It promises to implement a policy to defend Salvadoran residents in territories transferred to Honduras, to struggle against drug trafficking, to professionalize the diplomatic corps, and to seek better conditions for negotiations with the North.

Preparations for 20 March Elections Detailed

Army Confined to Barracks

PA1703170194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0419 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Mar (DPA)—The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the foremost electoral body, has announced that the Salvadoran Army will be confined to its barracks during the general elections on Sunday, 20 March.

The National Civilian Police (PNC) and the National Police, which is currently being phased out, will provide security for the elections, which are scheduled to begin at 0700 and end at 1700.

PNC Director Jose Maria Monterrey said some 4,000 policemen will guard the national polling places in a joint effort with the National Police. The PNC, a new corps that emerged as a result of the 1992 peace agreements ending a 12-year war, currently covers only seven of the country's 14 departments. The PNC will be at the service of the TSE in all remote regions and will be equipped with modern radio equipment, Monterrey announced.

For his part, National Police Director Samuel Dolores Cuellar said that for the last time—since it is supposed to be phased out in September—the National Police will have 4,193 policemen posted at 148 polling places throughout the country.

The police chief added that the National Police will provide protection in the capital and in the principal cities of Santa Ana, San Miguel, Ahuachapan, Sonsonate, and La Libertad Departments.

The Armed Forces will have the sole duty of assisting the TSE in the immediate transfer of vote count certificates or election officials aboard helicopters. Party officials and observers will always be present at such times.

For their part, the political parties, with the participation of the UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal), have signed documents and commitments wherein they appeal to their party rank and file to observe the necessary prudence and to avoid acts of violence as electoral tension increases.

Six parties and a three-party alliance will participate in the presidential elections. The alliance, however, will not participate as such in the legislative and municipal elections.

The elections are for the presidency of the Republic, 84 deputy seats, and municipal councilmen positions in 262 municipalities.

The parties with the best chances are the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the leftist presidential coalition [Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-National Revolutionary Movement Coalition] and Christian Democracy, which has been relegated to third place.

Other rightist parties are the National Coalition (PCN), the Authentic Christian Movement (MAC), the Unity Movement, and the National Solidarity Movement, all of which have slim chances.

TSE President on Vote Tallying

PA1803031094 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] President Luis Arturo Zaldiva has said everything is ready for the 20 March elections. He added that shortcomings in the issuance of voter registration cards have been overcome and that the nationwide distribution of electoral materials is already under way.

[Begin recording] [Zaldivar] As of midnight last night, more than 800,000 voter registration cards had been issued; in other words, we exceeded the goal we set for ourselves. This is very satisfying for the TSE and its staff. We commend those voters who came to the TSE offices to obtain voter registration cards.

[Unidentified reporter] Could you give us an estimate?

[Zaldivar] Of the cards issued? Remember, registration ended at midnight last night. We still do not have exact figures, but I can tell you that we exceeded 800,000 cards.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] take the election materials to all places in the country?

[Zaldivar] The nationwide delivery of election materials began yesterday. They will arrive at departmental and municipal electoral boards, and as the law stipulates, and they will eventually arrive at the voting table boards. [end recording]

Zaldivar also talked about the role of the international observers who are already in El Salvador to verify the outcome of the elections.

[Begin recording] [Zaldivar] There are more than 3,000 observers. We have (?registered) more than 2,000 visiting observers. Also, there are 900 UN observers and 25 TSE special guests who are members of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations.

[Reporter] When will the results be released?

[Zaldivar] The vote count will include two parts—a preliminary count and a final count. At the very latest, the final count should begin 48 hours after the polls close. During this process, the law requires us to report partial results. This is why we created the National Vote Counting Center, where we will hold a [word indistinct] involving the media to allow them to inform the nation and the world about the election results as they become available. These results will be based on data we collect through the logistical plan we devised—a plan that involves the counting of votes and the dissemination of the results. [end recording]

International observers will be assigned throughout the country to cover all municipalities. The full authority of the Salvadoran state will be at stake in the 20 March elections.

Parties Sign Peace Pledge

PA1803042694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0022 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The secretaries general of nine political parties that will participate in Sunday's general elections in El Salvador today signed a

new pledge to maintain "judiciousness and peace" on election day. The document was signed at the Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] headquarters, and President Alfredo Cristiani was the "honorary witness."

The declaration says: "Convinced of the historical importance" of Sunday's elections, "we ratify our firm determination to cooperate and guarantee that these elections are held in an atmosphere of tranquillity, safety, and complete freedom."

The political leaders, who included members of the most conservative right-wing groups and the old FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrilla groups, pledged to urge their party members and sympathizers to abstain from all acts of intimidation, coercion, pressure, or fraud, and from provoking the contenders.

In addition, they pledged to punctually open the polling places, scheduled for 0700 (1300 GMT), and guarantee that functions at the polling places be carried out only by duly accredited members of the Voting Table Boards.

The Salvadoran party leaders pledged to abide by the legal provisions for the elections, to guarantee that the polling places will close at 1700 (2300 GMT), and to maintain "order" during the vote-counting process. Likewise, they asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to enforce the Electoral Code provision concerning the ban on military in active service and the police, as well as pastors and religious leaders, engaging in partisan publicity. "Our large-scale and peaceful participation in the elections will be the best example of the Salvadoran people's civic mindedness and their determination to build the democratic, modern, just, and participatory nation we all hope for," the document states.

Between 2.3 million and 2.4 million Salvadorans will elect the president and vice president of the Republic, 84 Legislative Assembly deputies, 20 Central American Parliament deputies, and 262 mayors throughout the country.

The declaration was signed by Armando Calderon Sol, of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena); Shafik Handal, of the FMLN; Victor Valle, of the National Revolutionary Movement; and Ciro Cruz Zepeda, of the National Conciliation Party (PCN). The document was also signed by Aronette Diaz, of Democratic Convergence; Guillermo Guevara, of the Authentic Christian Party (MAC); Edgardo Rodriguez, of the National Solidarity Movement (MSN); Jorge Martinez, of the Unity Movement (MU); and Antonio Morales, of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). Armando Calderon Sol, Edgardo Rodriguez, and Jorge Martinez are also candidates for the Presidency of the Republic.

Honduras

Central Bank President: Difficult Year Ahead

PA1503135994

[Editorial Report] San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish on 10 March, page 5, reports that on 9 March after meeting with the Honduran Exporters Association, Hugo Noe Pino, president of the Central Bank of Honduras, said the reactivation of public investment will decrease this year. Noe Pino said this will be a difficult year for Hondurans because of the high fiscal deficit left by the previous government. Noe Pino said it will also be difficult because price freezes will be lifted and fluctuations are expected in the exchange rate. Noe Pino added, however, that the family basket tax will not increase. An tax increase on luxury items is being analyzed, he noted.

Nicaragua

Further on 3-80 Front Disarmament Postponement

Government Minister Comments

PA1703233594 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Excerpt] The disarmament of the 3-80 Northern Front, which was scheduled to start on 17 March, has been rescheduled for next week. The government and 3-80 Northern Front commissions continue to work on establishing programs to reintegrate the demobilized men into civilian society. Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta said that the group will be fully disarmed by 8 April.

The government commission headed by Minister Mendieta and members of the 3-80 Front met and decided to postpone the disarmament until next week.

[Begin Mendieta recording, in progress] ...we decided not to implement the disarmament today and to postpone it until next week. Meanwhile, we will continue the reintegration process. Everything is normal and as planned. We hope that there will be no major delays and that this process will irreversibly progress. [end recording]

There will be a number of meetings to assess the work of the commissions and the programs to reintegrate the 3-80 Northern Front. Minister Mendieta said that members of this group are willing to accept loans to buy land. The government, he added, will offer them financing and advice. [passage omitted]

Talavera Interviewed

PA1803042794 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1330 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Interview with Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal, head of the 3-80 Northern Front, by Luis Adolfo Diaz

and an unidentified reporter on 16 March in Caulatu; from the "Trench" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Talavera] In the agreements recently reached with the government, we were promised that land would be given to 3-80 Northern Front combatants to help them return to civilian life. At a meeting on 15 March, certain difficulties and problems arose, which hindered the demobilization of some of the 3-80 Northern Front's fighters—a demobilization scheduled for 16 March. These people need to rejoin civilian life because these peasants do not have... [pauses] they live in abject poverty; they have no place to live; and so on.

They have been hoping that the government will give each of them a small plot of land, enough to survive, and that they will be given technical and financial assistance, as was agreed in past negotiations. Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, who represents the government in these talks, said he was acting in good faith, but he noted that decisions are made in Managua. He added that the land problem had to be resolved in Managua and reviewed in Managua with various ministers—I think specifically with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo.

In turn, today we suspended the surrender of weapons of 150-200 combatants. The government and the 3-80 Northern Front agreed to discuss this issue in Managua over the next four days. We have a representative there who is talking to the government in an effort to find a way for the government to buy or give plots of land to these peasants to allow them to rejoin civilian life the day they surrender their rifles. This has to be done so they can start working.

[Diaz] How did Minister Mendieta explain the fact that the government is now claiming it is unable to keep its promise, especially given that, when the first 100 men surrendered their weapons, he said the government would indeed comply and that it was capable of complying?

[Talavera] There is problem; there is a problem with the central government. I do not know whether President Violeta Chamorro has failed to authorize all of the available resources to ensure that all demobilized 3-80 Northern Front commando units rejoin civilian life. Nevertheless, we are witnessing a huge difference between promises and actions. This creates distrust among those peasants planning to demobilized. They are conveying these feelings to us. These people were prepared to demobilize today.

They told us they were very disappointed in the government because they were extremely interested in surrendering their rifles, rejoining civilian life, and farming the land. I do not know whether the failure to comply was caused by a lack of maturity or responsibility on behalf of the government. The government has failed to comply with a promise it is completely capable of complying with. We know perfectly well that it has funds. The government spends a lot of money on other less important areas. This, however, should be a high priority area, because peace would be established throughout northern Nicaragua. All of these combatants would be contributing to the country's economy.

[Reporter] Why are negotiations not being held in Managua with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Higher Council, instead of here in Caulatu?

[Talavera] We are working on that. We will see if the government allows us to hold the next meeting in Managua to put an end to this phase of violence in northern Nicaragua. If this happens, we will have a chance to talk with members of the cabinet, and the ministers can come up with solutions for these people to enable them to finally rejoin society.

[Reporter] Do you need the government's permission to go to Managua?

[Talavera] Obviously we need the government's permission, as stipulated in the agreements.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Talavera] Yes, international observers have limitations too. They have told us that without the central government's permission, they cannot transfer from here to Managua any combatant of the 3-80 Northern Front who has not demobilized or who does not have an I.D. card issued to demobilized members. It is the government's responsibility.

[Reporter] Do you not feel like a prisoner in these enclaves?

[Talavera] Not really. Of course, I believe there is some disadvantage in holding the negotiations in this area instead of in Managua, where talks would have more coverage. If that were the case, the government would have to be more sensitive to national and international repercussions because we would have more chances to talk with domestic and foreign journalists. This could benefit us in the sense that, although it is feasible to find a peaceful solution for violence in the northern region, this subject has not been accorded the importance it deserves.

[Reporter] What if the government does not allow you to go to Managua to conduct this phase of the negotiations?

[Talavera] I believe this is something the government can do. If there is real willingness, I believe the government will permit a delegation of the 3-80 Northern Front staff to travel to Managua to follow up on the negotiations and put an end to violence in northern Nicaragua. The government has the last word. We in the 3-80 Northern Front are willing to lay down our weapons, but we demand compliance with the agreements. We hope the agreements do not turn out to be empty promises, as in previous years with the RN.

[Reporter] Commander Chacal, the RN Higher Council will meet with the economic cabinet tomorrow. What

actions will the RN Higher Council take on your behalf to expedite your demobilization?

[Talavera] They have plans. They will have the chance to meet with several cabinet members. We have confidence in the representatives of the RN Higher Council. This will be their first opportunity to review the RN's problems in general. They have our confidence and our full support. We hope the government will listen to them, and that it will not merely make empty promises as it has done in the past. We hope specific agreements will be reached tomorrow at the meeting with representatives of the RN Higher Council.

H. Ortega Comments on Meeting With Watson

PA1703224394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega declared, following a "frank, cordial, and open" meeting with Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] "will never" accept a military law approved "under U.S. pressure or by capricious positions."

Gen. Ortega added that he will "not retire under anyone's pressure, nor will the EPS tolerate another situation similar to what took place on 2 September 1993" when President Violeta Chamorro announced that the current Army commander in chief would retire in 1994.

Before departing Nicaragua, Watson commented that what happened on 2 September 1993 "was not the result of U.S. pressure; she said it was for her own reasons." Watson, who is the first U.S. official of his position to meet with the EPS general staff, refused to say whether Gen. Ortega should retire this year, like Chamorro said in 1993. "The Army and government are talking about this very delicate topic," Watson said.

In a news conference Gen. Ortega reiterated the EPS rejection of the human rights report prepared by the U.S. State Department. "This report is not objective and does not fall within the framework of the relationship that should exist between two sovereign countries," Ortega told Watson.

Watson's Promise

Presidency Minister Engineer Antonio Lacayo also expressed rejection of this document at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, where he arrived to bid Watson farewell. Minister Lacayo reiterated that the military law draft bill will be in the hands of the National Assembly in two weeks at the latest and that the U.S. State Department report "is rather old" and is loaded with "[word indistinct] language."

According to Gen. Ortega, Mr. Watson promised to take into account "other Nicaraguan points of view" when drafting the next report on the topic. He also insisted that the military law "will be a law on which most Nicaraguans agree."

Watson stressed that one of the basic topics dealt with during his first visit to Nicaragua was human rights and reiterated how important it is for the United States "that all human rights violators are taken to justice."

On the other hand, Ortega, who refused to tell reporters whether he would retire or not from the EPS this year, stressed to Watson the "deep crisis" that Nicaragua is going through due to the high incidence of violence and lack of citizens' security and the opportunity the United States has to contribute to national stability. "It is useless to move ahead in other fields if the country is going to crumble due to problems such as state corruption, drug trafficking, etc.," Ortega ended.

Lacayo: Watson Visit 'Beneficial'

PA1703202494 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1210 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said the visit by Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, was very important and beneficial for Nicaragua and that it shows U.S. President Bill Clinton's full support for the Nicaraguan democratic process and the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro administration.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] We believe the visit was very beneficial, productive, and good for Nicaraguans. Mr. Watson clearly expressed the Clinton administration's policy on Nicaragua in his speech at noon yesterday. He also reaffirmed what Ambassador Maisto said here in September.

Watson said problems in Nicaragua should be resolved by Nicaraguans for Nicaragua. This is indeed a great advancement, because previous U.S. administrations had another way of looking at things.

He also said this administration should end its constitutional presidential term normally and turn the government over to the duly elected president in the same way that [words indistinct] elected. He thus expressed total support for the democratic principles, the institutionalization of the electoral process, as well as his clear support for the government of Violeta de Chamorro, prompting it to continue its path toward peace, democracy, and the improvement of our economy.

We are very happy with Watson's visit and believe he was also quite satisfied with the talks he held with several sectors. I think the visit has improved relations between Nicaragua and the United States and has committed the Clinton administration to supporting the work done by Nicaraguans.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lacayo] We, through our foreign minister, have already expressed the government's point of view on the human rights report. We believe the report is outdated and does not reflect the real situation in Nicaragua. It is written in very obscure language and does not reflect the efforts made by the government and all Nicaraguans to live in peace. The people who wrote the report were not objective. We stated our position more than a month ago when the report first came out, and I reiterate it on this occasion. We also understand that other sectors in the country commented on the report to Watson. [end recording]

Engineer Lacayo also touched on the topic of the massive evictions and said such issues are basically handled by the judicial branch.

[Begin Lacayo recording] It is a matter that concerns the judicial branch exclusively. The judges are responsible for such issues. The National Police force, in accordance with the law, responds to a judge's call when he requests the support of the police. We are, however, very concerned because we have seen a [words indistinct] and it could be that judges have acted illegally in certain cases. That is very dangerous. We have already contacted the Supreme Court [words indistinct] to express our concern and [words indistinct] that all the judges are acting in accordance with the law. [end recording]

Panama

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA1703182294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the Panamanian elections scheduled for 8 May 1994.

Ruben Blades, Papa Egoro Party presidential candidate, met with Colon Free Zone businessmen and merchants to exchange ideas and hear suggestions on the future of that free zone. Blades proposed holding a referendum in October for a Constituent Assembly to reform the current Constitution which he said is not fitting for the nation's future and much less for the 21st century. (Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 94)

Blades, during a debate organized by the Panamanian Ecumenical Committee on 14 March, proposed "a moratorium on the payment of the foreign debt in order to give a solution to the serious social problems that the vast majority are experiencing." (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Mar p 1)

Ruben Dario Carles, "Change 94" ticket presidential candidate and former comptroller general, said during a debate organized by the Panamanian Ecumenical Committee on 14 March that he "had nothing to do with the foreign debt" payment to international financial institutions. Carles' remarks that the U.S. operation in Panama had not been an "invasion," rather a "liberation," was rejected by other party members and sympathizers while he called the audience present at the debate "ignorant" on these two issues: the foreign debt and the U.S. invasion. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Mar p 1)

Carles on 14 March visited San Miguelito District where he heard expressions of general discontent from the residents. Carles has stepped up his political campaign not only in the capital but also in the countryside. On his visit last week to Veraguas Province, he said: "I had the opportunity to reiterate what I had said was a fundamental matter in that sector: a reforestation program as well as the development of a tourist site on Montijo Gulf." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 94)

Carles reiterated on 15 March in San Miguelito District that he will solve the public services problems in 100 days. "I have been able to confirm that the basic problem of these urban and suburban areas is the lack of jobs—which we will generate—and the deficiency in public services. In the first 100 days of my administration these will be improved," Carles noted. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 94)

Samuel Lewis Galindo, National Consensus Alliance presidential candidate, called for nonviolence in the campaign. "The presidential candidates and the party leaders favor that the political campaign be conducted within certain levels and certain bounds so violent passions are not unleashed. I am certain that this is the position of the seven presidential candidates. It goes without saying that there are small groups that commit censurable actions, however there is still time to halt them," Lewis Galindo noted. (Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 94)

Lewis Galindo went on the campaign trail to diverse towns in Cocle Province, taking the message of change to the residents. He also visited some residential areas of El Cristo where he was warmly received. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 94)

Lewis Galindo said Panama currently has a foreign debt larger than the one it had on 20 December 1989. Lewis Galindo added that the current negotiators of that debt do not want to recognize their responsibilities and the errors they made and that there is no such Economic Plan. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Mar p 1)

Lewis Galindo, while visiting residents in the poor Boca La Caja neighborhood, promised to make an all-out effort during his administration to generate jobs and improve living conditions. "In these poor neighborhoods we want to create an emergency plan that will give jobs to 50,000 Panamanians, to improve—in these same neighborhoods—the social conditions of so many people," Lewis Galindo said. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Mar 94)

Mireya Gruber, Arnulfist Party, PA, presidential candidate, said she was not able yesterday to attend the renewal of the electoral ethical commitment because she was on the campaign trail. "I arrived at home at 2300, and this is why I did not attend. However, our candidates did," Mireya Gruber noted. "We will respect our commitment." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Mar 94)

PA party members held a Democratic Alliance dinner in favor of the 8 May elections and in honor of candidate Mireya Gruber. PA and Liberal Party personalities attended the dinner led by Mireya Gruber. During her speech Gruber made reference to diverse points of her government platform; among these employment, sports, and housing. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 94)

Gruber over the weekend participated in a three-day tour of Chiriqui Province, reaffirming her promise to keep in touch with the people. Our government will be for all Panamanians, said Mireya Gruber, indicating that health, education, employment, and housing problems will have top priority in her administration. Gruber also urged the younger generation to stay away from drugs. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 94)

Gruber said she will file formal charges against the PRD with the Justice and Peace Commission for attacking her in Chiriqui. The PRD publicly rejected the attack by one of its party members. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 94)

Ernesto Perez Balladares, Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, presidential candidate, announced yesterday during a Rotary Club meeting possible changes to the Labor Code, should he win the coming elections. He urged the United States to make clear whether it has any intention of keeping a military presence in Panama after the year 2000. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Mar p 1)

Eduardo Vallarino, Christian Democratic Party, PDC, presidential candidate, said during a debate organized by the Panamanian Ecumenical Committee on 14 March that one of his government program's top priorities is "to postpone payment of the foreign debt." (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Mar p 1)

Argentina

Di Tella: Integration Process Must Involve Military

PY1803001594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Mar 94 p 7

[Article by Luis Garasino]

[Text] Opening a meeting on measures to promote confidence and security mechanisms, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said military cooperation is essential for a true continental integration. The OAS-sponsored meeting opened in Buenos Aires yesterday.

Chatting informally, the participants were more emphatic than Di Tella. They stated that "every time the OAS discusses the security issue, the Armed Forces of member countries have been systematically excluded. It is time the military component of the policies of member countries was considered as a factor in the OAS assessments."

Di Tella addressed an auditorium in which uniformed members of the Armed Forces of the OAS member countries mingled with suited diplomats. He stated: "Until we can impose a new pace in the military field, the integration process lacks an indispensable component for its consolidation."

The Argentine foreign minister said: "It is time to combine our political, economic, and social progress with the military aspect."

He said this should be based on the following essential premises: Defining military doctrines based on legitimate defense needs; and "clarity" through communication, information, observation, verification, and the maintenance of a subregional military balance that will finally lead to a "functional integration."

This change of attitude by OAS member countries comes just as the United States is exerting pressure on the Latin American military to engage directly in the struggle against trafficking.

This contradicts an ancient and deep-rooted lack of confidence within OAS member countries: The Armed Forces are considered latent coupist elements—following the experience of decades—against democratic governments.

As for the possible objectives of the meeting, Di Tella said that the OAS can become "a natural forum for discussion, agreement, and implementation of hemispheric decisions on security issues." There is also "the possibility of establishing a regional center to prevent and handle conflicts and controversies."

Hernan Patino Mayer—the Argentine ambassador to the OAS, who is one of the main promoters of the meeting—asserted that the Armed Forces of the region "have a special role to play in this continental integration process."

Bolivia's Sanchez: Nation Wants To Join Mercosur

PY1803031094 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada on 16 March ratified in Buenos Aires his country's desire to join the Common Market of the South [Mercosur], which includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The Bolivian president is here on an official visit, and during his first meeting with Carlos Menem he discussed the signing of several bilateral agreements. He also began discussions to obtain a measure of exception that will allow Bolivians who reside here to obtain their residence documents.

"For Bolivians, Argentina is practically their second fatherland. Thousands of Bolivians reside in Buenos Aires and throughout Argentina and contribute toward this country with their work," Sanchez de Losada said on his arrival in the country.

Regarding the possibility of joining Mercosur, the Bolivian president said: "I have very much wanted to approach Mercosur because we are a part of the Pacific's Amazon Basin, but we also belong to the River Plate Basin." But a diplomatic source indicated that the possibility is very remote and could only happen within the framework of a Brazilian initiative to create a giant South American common market.

Moreover, the agenda's main topic is the signing of an agreement that will permit the free exchange of gas, oil, and their by-products with an eye on bilateral integration in the energy sector. Argentine credits for the prevention of cholera in border areas is also an agenda topic.

UN Secretary General Gives News Conference

PY1703151194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA)—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said today that the decision to send a peacekeeping force to Bosnia "is the exclusive responsibility of the Argentine Government." He also categorically denied that he had "demanded financial support" from the Carlos Menem administration.

In a news conference held at the UN office in the Recoleta Cultural Center in this capital, Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that the decision to send a unit of Blue Helmets to Bosnia-Herzegovina "must be made by the Argentine Government."

The UN secretary general clarified this issue after the Argentine Government decision to accept a UN request to contribute 150 soldiers to the hottest spot in the former Yugoslavia.

He said: "The United Nations requests the troops, and we specify the mission to every state member, but each government defines the type of aid it can provide. In some cases it can contribute personnel, and in other cases weapons. The aid will always be welcome."

In this regard he said the United Nations "can act as mediator" among the states that intend to provide troops, weapons, or transportation means. He made it clear that "pressure will never be exerted on a government to make a contribution" of this kind.

Butrus-Ghali also pointed out that "no request for money was made to Argentina," thus rejecting a report indicating that the United Nations had requested from the government a contribution of $10 million for financing various peacekeeping missions around the world."

He said: "Argentina has paid its UN dues. It is the United Nations that owes money to Argentina. But the problem is that the United Nations is going through a financial crisis in carrying out missions of this type and with the characteristics it considers necessary."

He also indicated that states "must be convinced" to pay their dues "for the symbolic value, among other things, of cooperating to preserve peace among members."

Butrus-Ghali said the United Nations "is an instrument at the service of the state members." He added: "No country finds military intervention in another country acceptable, unless it is coordinated by the United Nations."

Butrus-Ghali also said that it had been decided to increase the number of Security Council members based on the hundreds of letters sent by UN members.

He said: "The majority are in favor of reforming the Security Council created in 1945, when there were only 50 members. We now have 184 countries, and it is therefore necessary to have new members on the council."

He believes the number of countries making up the Security Council "will be increased to 18 or 19 members," although he explained that it would be impossible for the change to be made next year, when the United Nations will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

He said the main current problems are "the ethnic wars" within states, which he labeled micronationalisms [micronacionalismos]. He said the UN mission "is to reconcile the different positions."

He added: "UN actions are no longer restricted to keeping the peace. It has to demobilize armies that are not linked to a peace negotiating process, and must also rebuild bridges, roads, hospitals, and schools after the war is over."

Pharmaceutical Director Views U.S. Patents Conflict

PY1703134894 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Mar 94 p 18

[Text] Argentine pharmaceutical industrialists argue that U.S. laboratories must accept GATT agreements recognizing the need for patents, but also contemplating a series of licenses and exceptions to exclusivity.

What follows is a conversation between CLARIN and CILFA [Argentine Pharmaceutical Laboratories Industrial Center] Director Pablo Challu, former secretary of commerce in the Carlos Menem administration.

[CLARIN] In view of the latest U.S. pressures, will CILFA continue to oppose the patents law, or will it advocate a negotiated solution?

[Challu] The climate for a patents law has changed dramatically, because at the end of 1993 Argentina, the United States, and other countries signed the GATT agreement which includes a chapter dedicated to pharmaceutical patents. Argentina will honor and fulfill that international agreement, as it should, and will have a patents law by the end of 1994.

[CLARIN] We no longer have any conflict, then.

[Challu] It is not that simple. We (CILFA) ask countries that have signed the agreement—and among them the United States and its laboratories—to respect the agreement.

[CLARIN] You want Argentine laboratories' acquired rights recognized?

[Challu] The agreement recognizes the exclusive rights of the laboratory that develops a drug. We accept this. The agreement also establishes a series of exceptions and the possibility of granting licenses. This provision will guarantee, through the appropriate legislation, the existence of sufficient competition in the market. The agreement also establishes a transition of 11 years for developing countries before the full implementation of the measure. This is natural, because developing countries were granted a period of transition of between 30 to 40 years to end their agricultural subsidies.

[CLARIN] Which is the main hurdle blocking a solution to this conflict?

[Challu] The problem is that we accept the GATT agreement, with all its consequences, but foreign laboratories do not understand it that way. That is the problem. There is haste, and we suffer pressures. Why do they refuse to wait until the end of the year, and want a law now? Because they have the possibility of threatening us with unilateral economic sanctions. At the end of the year, when all congresses in the world approve a similar law, the possibility of imposing economic sanctions will end.

[CLARIN] Is one of the sanctions the refusal to let Argentina join NAFTA?

[Challu] We understand it to be an unacceptable argument. It would be reasonable to expect concessions in exchange for something else within NAFTA. But it would be absurd to accept what they are requesting without offering anything in exchange.

[CLARIN] Will you continue to work on the issue at Government House and in Congress? Six months ago you met with the president.

[Challu] They heard our arguments carefully. But now things have changed, because we signed the GATT agreement. This is why we are today telling the United States and foreign laboratories, which are always telling us to continue on the legal path, that today the legal path is to respect GATT.

[CLARIN] Is it necessary to introduce changes into the draft bill now in Congress in order to accommodate the GATT principles?

[Challu] We must introduce a series of changes in the bill to include the transition period and the flexibility to grant licenses.

[CLARIN] What will happen if Congress approves a law that meets all U.S. requirements?

[Challu] Consumers will foot the bill. Medicine prices will increase between 250 and 300 percent, not in the long term but immediately, as happened in Italy when a patents law was approved. Besides, the bill will affect the balance of payments, because we will have to pay some $500 million annually to the United States over patents, instead of the $30 million we currently pay. Besides, at this time we have a balance of trade deficit of $3 billion with the United States.

Workers Partially Destroy Tucuman Congress Building

PY1703175394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1636 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 17 Mar (NA)—At 1200 today, nearly 200 workers from the La Florida Sugar Mill invaded the Tucuman Congress building and destroyed a large portion of its facilities.

After attempting in vain to be received by the congressmen who were present in the building, the demonstrators invaded the provincial Congress and destroyed the glass windows on the ground floor, as well as several offices.

After the incidents, the workers went to Independence Square, in front of Government House, where they are still waiting for a meeting with Tucuman Governor Ramon Ortega to take stock of the situation.

The workers' protest demonstration was staged within the framework of those that began 15 days ago after news was published that the sugar mill had gone bankrupt.

Governor Ortega said he would not meet with "anyone who has chosen to adopt violent methods."

Ortega is holding a meeting with the representatives of the Alcofin company, which will be in charge of exploiting the sugar mill from now on.

The congressmen were surprised at the police delay in containing the demonstrators. The police did not arrive at the Congress building until the demonstrators were already leaving, and did not arrest anyone.

The workers' version of the incident has it that "the attacks began from inside the Congress building," from where the first stones and firecrackers were hurled.

Some Congress employees were injured trying to leave the area.

Acting Congress President Christian Saracho held Miguel Brito, secretary general of the local General Confederation of Labor office, as one of those responsible for the incidents.

Menem Plans 'Extensive Visit' to PRC

PY1703184394 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] President Carlos Menem has agreed to pay an extensive visit to the PRC, as he had to cut his last visit to that country short after a couple of days due to domestic problems. The date for this state visit has not yet been established. Menem extended this promise to PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu during a meeting they had yesterday on the occasion of the latter's visit to Argentina.

According to the Foreign Ministry's tentative program, Menem will travel to the PRC this year as part of a tour that would also include the ROK. Sources close to the Foreign Ministry told CLARIN that a final confirmation of this trip is still pending.

Liu, a career diplomat specialized in Latin American affairs, was accompanied to the meeting with Menem by PRC Ambassador to Argentina Tang Yonggui and Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, among other officials.

Political Tensions in Cabinet Meeting Reported

94SM0270A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Feb 94 pp 4-5

[Article by Nancy Pazos: "An Agitated Government Cabinet Meeting"]

[Text] During a lively cabinet meeting Domingo Cavallo complained about the lack of solidarity shown by the Executive and Legislative branches in defending the economic model. President Menem interrupted to tell him that he himself had supported it. Saul Bouer, who was seated directly opposite Cavallo, ended his rift with the economy minister.

Domingo Cavallo waited for the right moment. When Armando Caro Figueroa finished his weekly defense of more flexible labor laws, the economy minister asked for the floor: "I am going to raise a point of privilege," he said, unexpectedly recalling his brief time in the legislature. Everyone realized that this marked the beginning of what they were all waiting for: the last round in the fight between Cavallo and Buenos Aires Mayor Saul Bouer.

The justification for his solemn introduction, which was unlike the language typical of cabinet meetings, was not long in coming. Cavallo complained officially about the "lack of solidarity of the Executive and Legislative" branches with him and his efforts in light of developments over the past few days (read: his defense of the automotive industry against the onslaught of the DGI [General Directorate of Taxation]), the battle with Saul Bouer and Miguel Angel Broda, and the incident with federal Judge Roberto Marquevich, among others.

This was actually the conclusion that Cavallo drew after a detailed rundown of the attacks that he said he had suffered for the past two weeks. To show that he was not talking about rumors, the minister had done his homework and brought a folder containing clippings of all the newspaper articles about him during this time into the Situation Room of the Government Palace.

Menem Speaks Out

"Except for the president, who clearly backed me, no one here spoke up to defend me. The Executive and Legislative branches showed a lack of solidarity with me," Cavallo said, reducing the room to an uncommon silence. A reply came from the only person around the table who was not holding his breath.

"Mr. Minister, do you know what the Executive Branch is?" asked Carlos Menem, as the other cabinet ministers looked on as mere spectators.

"Because in case you do not, Mr. Minister, I am the Executive Branch. And I defended you not only this morning but also since I was on my trip through Colombia. So, the only thing that ought to concern you is what I say; the others are just incidental colleagues. Moreover, what I say I say on my behalf and on behalf of my ministers...."

Hugo Anzorreguy's departure to answer an urgent call succeeded in tempering the chill that had descended on the room. By then the president's outburst had given Jorge Matzkin the courage to defend the other branch that Cavallo had attacked, the Legislature.

"There is a confusion of terms here," began the head of the Justicialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. "The minister has repeatedly gotten our political solidarity; but we Peronists owe Bouer our friendship as well, and here we are talking about a different kind of solidarity...."

Matzkin avoided direct reference to the heart of the matter: Peronism stands behind Cavallo's efforts but defends the Justicialists whom the minister is attacking. It was a way of excluding Cavallo from the Justicialist "space" by seeking to confirm a political identity.

Menem then resorted to an almost paternal tone to illustrate his remarks and put an end to the issue: "Don't forget," he said, looking at all times into Cavallo's blue eyes, "that you have to be on good terms with God; the angels are always around..." according to the account of someone at the meeting.

The president was thus trying to put an end to the episode that began last week when the former untouchables broke into the Sevel agencies.

The minister gave an extremely personal analysis of the situation yesterday: "The fact is that if I do not come out and defend the model, I do not know who will..." he complained from his chair, directly opposite Bouer's, in justifying his verbal excesses.

The mayor interrupted the minister's monologue only to tell his colleagues that the incident that had set them at odds (Cavallo accused him of having leaked the news that led to the run on the peso in 1991) was now "completely behind them."

"We have already spoken in private, and there is nothing else to clarify," Bouer said 48 hours after his last attempt to resign. Several cabinet members remarked afterwards that yesterday Cavallo had made every possible "gesture" towards the mayor. He even apologized over the phone to Bouer's wife and daughter, who were the ones most interested in seeing the mayor return to private life.

Cavallo Attacks

Cavallo had begun his outburst by reading the main remarks that Judge Roberto Marquevich had made about him (calling him "raving" and authoritarian, among other things) in the newspaper interview that appeared on Wednesday.

Newspaper clipping in hand, Cavallo received his first show of solidarity. Maria Julia Alsogaray, the secretary of the environment, recalled other "inappropriate" remarks by the San Isidro federal judge. Marquevich, who is now investigating Francisco Macri for tax evasion, was the one who sent another prominent businessmen, Roberto Constantini, to jail for an environmental crime. Again according to Maria Julia, the judge had also attempted to implicate her in the case.

But Cavallo was not satisfied with talking just about Marquevich. He also complained about Alberto Piotti, the former judge who became a pro-Menem deputy and is now the brand-new Buenos Aires security secretary. Piotti, a member of the "Rating Group" (the band of deputies who wander around the mass media defending Menem's policies), had criticized Cavallo.

Menem did not miss his chance to show, at little cost, how far his solidarity with his minister goes. He looked around him and saw Munir Menem, his brother, chief of

presidential advisers and the virtual "owner" of the seats at "Tango 01." The president immediately ordered him to exclude Piotti from the presidential party that will be traveling to Spain.

An hour after the meeting ended, the rumors about the short-circuit between Cavallo and the Executive Branch reached the financial district. But the sharp fall in the stock market lasted only 45 minutes. Calm then returned to nervous offices in the financial district and the government.

Police Seize Nearly 200 Kg Cocaine in Raids

PY1603193494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0055 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar (NA)—In various operations conducted in the federal capital and in greater Buenos Aires, the police have seized nearly 200 kg of cocaine and arrested over 25 people. This has been the hardest blow dealt to drug trafficking this year.

Judge Juan Jose Galeano headed an operation conducted in Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires, during which police found more than 50 kg of cocaine that had been "artistically" hidden inside five wooden doors that had been carefully constructed for this illegal act.

This operation led the Federal Police to raid the "Buenos Aires" warehouse in the Pompeya district, where they found 15 similar doors with dozens of bricks of cocaine inside.

According to Police Inspector Norberto Ruiz, who was in charge of the operation, the "merchandise" had been brought from Jujuy in a station wagon belonging to the freight company "La Sevillanita."

Ruiz reported that neither those responsible for the warehouse nor the freight company managers were apparently involved in smuggling the drugs.

The operation was the fruit of "four months of investigations," Ruiz pointed out. He added that the agents assigned to the operation hadn't slept for 48 hours.

According to reports the merchandise kept at the "Buenos Aires Warehouse" was to have been picked up by a drug trafficker identified as Adrian Flores. This name, however, could be false.

Judge Galeano said he was "very satisfied" with the results of the investigation, and praised the policemen's performance in helping solve the case.

When the policemen took apart the doors, they realized that 8 kg of highly pure cocaine were hidden inside each door, though some doors were heavier than others.

The court officials pointed out that more raids and arrests will result from the operation, because the gang probably has connections in Jujuy Province and in other regions of the country.

Brazil

Nation Set To Formalize Participation in OECD

PY1803002494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 Economic Section p B8

[Article by Paris correspondent Reali Junior]

[Text] Brazil is the newest OECD member. Joining the OECD enables Brazil to move closer to the organization that groups together the 24 most-industrialized countries in the world. The exchange of letters formalizing Brazil's joining of the OECD will take place on either 16 or 17 March during the meeting to be held between Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur and OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye at the Hotel de La Muette.

Brazilian Ambassador to France Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa has been furthering Brazil's rapprochement with the OECD for two years. The organization has no members from Latin America except for Mexico, which will become the 25th member of OECD as of June under the aegis of the United States and Canada. The first stage to be completed in order to achieve full-member status is to sit on the Development Assistance Committee. Brazil will sit there next to countries like Argentina and the ROK.

The OECD is a sort of exclusive club, whose members are the richest countries in the world, that promotes greater cooperation and a broad exchange of information on economic and development matters. The center was created by an OECD council decision. Its mission is to embark on research on international economic relations, suggest solutions to overcome problems identified in research, and establish a dialogue with developed countries. Members are Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Spain, the United States, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, the Netherlands, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Seminar

The first consequence of Brazilian participation will be the OECD's organization of an international seminar on privatization at the Hotel Mofarrej in Sao Paulo during April. The most important members, with some experience in privatizations, will attend the seminar. At the same time, Ambassador Rubens Barbosa is coordinating a seminar on the privatization process in Brazil in London next week with the participation of Brazilian economists, Persio Arida among them.

Creditor Banks' Representative Supports Loan Proposal

PY1803013494 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said today that the salary increase approved by deputies for themselves is unforgivable. The increase was one of

the issues discussed by Cardoso with the representative of Brazil's creditor banks in New York today.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Paulo Henrique Amorim] After the meeting, Bill Rhodes, the banks' representative, said that tomorrow afternoon he will send a document to all creditor banks recommending the approval of the Brazilian proposal to replace the IMF loan with U.S. Government certificates purchased by the Brazilian Government. Bill Rhodes believes the fact that Brazil has not obtained a loan yet from the IMF will not prevent the agreement with Brazil from being signed as scheduled on 15 April. Minister Cardoso said Brazil has enough exchange reserves to sign an agreement with the banks without problems. I asked Bill Rhodes if he believes Brazil will be able to maintain a balanced budget even after the Chamber of Deputies approved a salary increase for deputies. Rhodes said he does not discuss Brazilian domestic issues but believes Minister Cardoso will make the economic plan be fulfilled. I asked the same question to Minister Cardoso.

[Cardoso] I believe the Senate will have the political knowledge to understand the current situation and correct what I find unforgivable: the increase approved at a time when Brazil needs austerity, when we are asking not to increase workers' salaries in general. There is no justification for the deputies to approve a salary increase for themselves, and there would not be any justification for the Senate to do the same either. [end recording]

PSDB Admits Cardoso Not To Run for President

PY1803025094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Jorge Bastos Moreno]

[Text] Brasilia—PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] President Tasso Jereissati admits that Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso will not leave the government to run in the presidential elections. This means that the political forces that support the government—the PSDB and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] members who do not follow Orestes Quercia—are again considering the candidacy of Deputy Antonio Britto (PMDB-RS [Rio Grande do Sul]), who is campaigning to run for governor of Rio Grande do Sul State.

Following the PMDB executive board meeting that decided to call the party political council to discuss the impasse created by Quercia's candidacy, PMDB President Deputy Luiz Henrique admitted he is receiving strong pressure from the presidents of regional PMDB offices to endorse Britto's candidacy for president of the Republic.

Jereissati confirmed a report published by O GLOBO stating that the two parties' leaders recently have established contacts to support Britto. Such efforts, however, were defeated by the launching of Quercia's candidacy, Jereissati said.

"There was a tacit agreement that the PMDB would support Fernando Henrique and that the PSDB would support Britto. There still exists the possibility to resume contacts and that the PSDB will support Britto," Jereissati said.

The PSDB president—whose party stems from a split over Quercia's leadership of the PMDB—does not even consider discussing Quercia's estrangement from the alliance because it will be a natural consequence of the official launching of Britto's candidacy.

"Britto will become a candidate only if the PMDB solves the problem of Quercia's candidacy. That seems to be the only obstacle. Once it is solved, we will be able to hold concrete talks about an alliance," Jereissati said.

Just like the PSDB president, most PSDB congressmen in Brasilia began to have doubts about Fernando Henrique's candidacy. Such doubts were expressed during Cardoso's 48-hour trip to the United States, during which he put in second place the subject of the scope of an alliance that could support him. First place, for him, was the political appropriateness of leaving his post at such an essential moment for the economic stabilization program.

The PMDB has internally resumed the discussion about Britto's candidacy independently of eventual PSDB support. Quercia followers who consider his candidacy suicidal are considering alternatives like Goias Governor Iris Rezende or former President Jose Sarney.

Bahia State Governor Magalhaes Interviewed

PY1703191094 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Mar 94 p A13

[Interview with Bahia State Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes by Cristiana Lobo; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Lobo] Is [Foreign Minister] Fernando Henrique Cardoso the PFL [Liberal Front Party] candidate?

[Magalhaes] No. The PFL has a natural candidate, a party candidate. I am that candidate. As I intend to resign on 30 March, I could tour Brazil, boost my image, and become a strong candidate. But this is not what I am going to do. I want to become senator for Bahia State. I believe the political forces must be able to find a common candidate to face the critical situation that the country is experiencing. If possible we will select a common candidate. It could be Fernando Henrique Cardoso, some other member of his party, or a candidate from another party. There are some very good names.

[Lobo] Who?

[Magalhaes] It may be someone from the PP [Popular Party] or the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party]. Citing names is always unpleasant because no one likes to be excluded. Everyone believes that he is capable of resolving the country's problems. This is why I will not

cite names. Some are known to the public, others will have to campaign to become known by the public...

[Lobo] The PFL was initially critical following the launch of the economic plan. What has now changed: the plan or the PFL?

[Magalhaes] The PFL did not change nor is the plan successful. One thing is certain: The PFL supported all the measures submitted by Itamar [Franco's] government to save Brazil. But, this has not happened. It is not the fault of the PFL that the plan will not succeed. Leaving the plan aside, the PFL believes Cardoso has aptitude. But he is not the only one who has the necessary aptitude to resolve Brazil's problems. Like Cardoso, there are others who can make Brazil grow again. Brazil needs an administrator. It is a question of observing who is administering his state appropriately in order to choose a good presidential candidate.

[Lobo] Is the PFL making any demands over joining a coalition?

[Magalhaes] The PFL could make demands, it even has the right to make them. But it's strength lies in the fact that it wants the basic points of its program to be studied by associates of an alliance. These points must be taken seriously because they are very important. We are convinced that no one can govern Brazil well without adopting the basic points of our program, because they are the hallmarks of a candidate that wants to save Brazil and get it out of the chaos. To have political interests is natural. Those who deny it are hypocrites. The PFL does not admit incongruous conduct. Over the years the party has helped in the functioning of the democratic system. We do not accept those who have no tradition of struggling for democracy, but who now talk about democracy and at the same time about social democracy. [passage omitted]

[Lobo] How will the PFL channel talks with other parties?

[Magalhaes] The PFL has competent people, and a competent, experienced, and serious man at the head of the party who has the ability to command. He is Jorge Bornhausen. He is currently leading very well with a democratic spirit and with a lot of aplomb. He has clearly demonstrated that the PFL wants to resolve Brazil's problems.

[Lobo] Problems always appear over the vice presidential candidacy of your party when an alliance between the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and the PFL is discussed.

[Magalhaes] We do not accept any type of problems. If there are problems, the respective party should resolve them internally. When the PFL has a problem it is always discussed internally. If you are referring to the PSDB, then it is up to the leaders that want to dispute the presidency to resolve the problem so they can talk with authority.

[Lobo] Could this alliance include the PDT [Democratic Labor Party]?

[Magalhaes] When I defend an alliance I believe no one should be excluded from the consultation. It is the situation, specially a party platform situation, that excludes a person. The way to react and to administrate, the way to perceive how the country's problems can be resolved are what separates one person from another. This why Lula [Workers Party, PT, leader Luis Inacio da Silva] isolates himself when he wants to create a totalitarian alliance instead of a democratic alliance.

[Lobo] Does the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] have a place in that alliance?

[Magalhaes] An alliance cannot exclude anyone on principle. [Rio de Janeiro State Governor Leonel] Brizola is better than [Orestes] Quercia.

[Lobo] Will this alliance be a rehash of the 1985 Democratic Alliance?

[Magalhaes] Each election is different and Brazil is now in a very different position than in 1984. It has something to do with justice: [Former President Tancredo] Neves was a compromiser, but he had the courage to make decisions when necessary. I was very close to him for a long time and despite what many people say, I observed how often he had to make decisions and how he rigorously complied with his commitments. He kept his word. On 12 August 1984, the day of the PMDB convention, I was the first minister to be named by Neves. He rigorously complied with his commitment, even though the media stated that I was not going to be a minister and that my fellow party members were concerned. [passage omitted]

Workers Party Bloc Criticizes Government Program

PY1703160694 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, PT [Workers Party] candidate, was harshly criticized yesterday during a meeting of the PT federal bloc to discuss the government program drafted by the PT executive board. Opposition to the controversial points in the program, such as the legalization of abortion and marriage between homosexuals—namely from deputies Benedita da Silva (Rio de Janeiro) who belongs to the Evangelical Church, and Irma Passoni (Sao Paulo), who is Catholic—forced Lula to review these subjects.

Deputy Irma Passoni said: "You cannot support these ideas before discussing them within the bloc."

Benedita commented: "This cannot be included in the government program, because it is a mistake. We are going to discuss it with the Church."

Lula answered: "We must look at abortion as a public health issue. Wealthy women go to posh clinics to have

an abortion with little suffering. Poor women risk their lives at home, where abortions are performed under inadequate conditions."

Deputy Jose Genoino (PT-Sao Paulo) upheld the need to draft a new program for Lula's government.

Genoino said: "The PT has one program, while Lula has another. One cannot mix government politics with social issues."

The alliance parties—the PPS [Peoples' Socialist Party] and the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]—also demand changes. The PPS, for example, does not accept a moratorium on the foreign debt.

In Sao Paulo, PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] President Tasso Jereissati asserted that the PT proposals make the possibility of an alliance between the two parties even more remote.

"The PT has become more and more distant from the PSDB. These PT proposals are an example of that."

Paulo Maluf, virtual PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] candidate, also criticized the PT.

Maluf commented: "The program has reached a deadlock, and Lula has contributed to this."

Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], chose to criticize the program, which he labeled "Jurassic," in general terms. According to Fleury, the PT proposals regarding the debt and privatization subjects are "obsolete, and harmful" to the country.

Church Assails PT Positions

PY1703163394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 p A4

[Excerpt] The PT [Workers Party] platform, released on 14 March, has elicited a negative reaction from the Church throughout our country. Fathers and bishops, even some of those identified as belonging to the progressive wing, with ties to the PT, denounced the platform's points involving abortion, contraception, and homosexual relations.

Juazeiro da Bahia Bishop Jose Rodrigues, a representative of the progressive wing that openly supported PT candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during past presidential elections, condemned the platform. He believes the two issues will cause a great "deterioration" in Lula's candidacy. The bishop noted: "The PT wanted to be responsive to these minority groups, but ended up alienating the majority." He added: "The people, in general, do not approve of these proposals."

The PT is not actually proposing the regularization of abortion or of marriage between homosexuals. The platform merely proposes "the establishment of regulations for the performance of abortion under safe conditions, through the public services." Concerning unions between homosexuals, the PT wants "proposals for legal changes guaranteeing the rights of married homosexual couples concerning civil marriage contracts, social security, partition of goods, and inheritance." [passage omitted]

Program Requires Constitutional Changes

PY1703154794 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 p A6

[Article by Lucia Helena Gazzola]

[Text] Despite its open opposition to constitutional revision, the PT [Workers Party] would have to amend several provisions of the Constitution to implement its government program—if this is passed without amendment, and if the PT is successful at the polls. Many of the proposals in the PT government program, which is still under discussion, directly contradict the Constitution and would entail making deep changes in nearly all its chapters.

By way of example, the endorsement of abortions to be performed at state-run health care centers jars directly with Article 5 of the Constitution, which guarantees the inviolability of the right to life and thus bans abortion. Another example of conflict is the PT's proposal to guarantee the right of homosexual couples to get married at a registry office, to have access to social security benefits, or to share or bequeath their assets to one another. Paragraph 3 of Article 226 of the Constitution clearly recognizes the family unit to be the stable union between a man and a woman, thus excluding a union between people of the same sex.

The PT wants the Armed Forces' role to be circumscribed to defense of the borders, while the Constitution in Article 142 provides for other duties, such as enforcing law and order and guaranteeing constitutional authority. The PT is campaigning for voluntary military service, while Article 143 of the Constitution stipulates that it is compulsory. The PT program proposes creating a Defense Ministry, to "guarantee cohesion in defense policy and reduce the corporate interests of each branch of the Armed Forces." Article 91 of the Constitution, however, takes the existence of the three military ministries (Army, Navy, and Aeronautics) for granted.

The federal system of government does not escape from this conflict, either. The PT intends to decentralize power and financial resources so that they will be equitably shared between the federal government, states, and municipalities. This would require amendments to Articles 25-31 and to Article 145. The PT program jars with several points on the organization of the three branches of government as provided for in the Constitution. The PT program's defense of the principle of "a vote for each citizen," in referring to representation in the Chamber of Deputies, goes against Article 45 of the Constitution, which stipulates that all states are to be guaranteed a minimum of eight deputies and a maximum of 70.

Other examples include the PT's proposal to eliminate the revisory role of the Senate, which goes against Article 65, and the items pertaining to party affiliation and parliamentary immunity, which go against the provisions of Article 55.

Vice Presidential Candidate on Program

PY1803030994 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Mar 94 p A9

[Article by Lucia Helena Gazzola]

[Text] Troubled by the Catholic Church's negative attitude toward the inclusion of such things as abortion and the Union of Homosexuals in his government program project, PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on 16 March defended the fact that the definitive program, which will be approved during the party's national convention, only deals with what the executive branch can do. "The program cannot be fictitious; that is why it must be rational, feasible, and practical so that it can be implemented after the elections."

Lula expressed his feelings on 16 March after lunching with Maceio Mayor Ronaldo Lessa (PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]), who is one of the possible vice presidential candidates for his ticket. He clearly stated that he does not agree to the inclusion of those topics in the program: "I do not know whether this has to do with a government program—it could deal with legislative policy or the Constitution—but I believed it to be democratic to include them in the program that is to be discussed."

The candidate also stated that he will not accept party impositions in this respect. "Not even Lula can impose a program on society, nor can the PT impose a program on Lula," he stressed. "The program has to contain what the government plans to do."

Non-Compulsory Vote Defeated in Constituent Congress

PY1803015594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 p A8

[Text] Brasilia—The Constituent Congress on 15 March rejected a proposal to substitute the obligatory vote with the non-compulsory vote. Of the 436 congressmen who voted, 236 rejected the measure, 193 supported it, and seven abstained. The proposal was submitted by the general rapporteur, Deputy Nelson Jobim (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul State]. Had the measure been approved it would have gone into effect in 1995. It would not have been valid for this year's elections.

The implementation of the non-compulsory vote was defended by Deputy Jose Genoino (PT-SP) [Workers Party-Sao Paulo State]. He said the non-compulsory vote would rock safe electoral districts and affect the floating vote. Jose Serra (SP) [Sao Paulo State], the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] leader in the Chamber of Deputies, also defended the non-compulsory vote. "A right should not be converted into an obligation," he stressed.

In their speeches to the plenum, Deputies Liberato Caboclo (PDT-SP) [Democratic Labor Party-Sao Paulo State] and Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party-Pernambuco State], former government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, spoke out against it. Caboclo said the measure would stimulate political incapability.

Freire said the obligation to vote is a duty of the people. "This is why the vote must be obligatory," he stressed. Senator Josaphat Marinho (PFL-BA) [Liberal Front Party-Bahia State] adopted the same line of thought, saying that to have approved the non-compulsory vote would have "abandoned the fundamental rules of the people."

Import Tariffs Reduced To Force Price Drop

PY1703184194 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] The government yesterday reduced to 2 percent the import tariffs paid on 41 groups of products, in order to force a drop in prices. According to an official note released yesterday, the list could be expanded if the Finance Ministry identifies other sectors that are considered oligopolies and for which there is world competition.

Of the approximately 132 products in the list, 103 are medicines. The others are hygiene and cleaning products, like matches and steel wool, which have little effect on living costs. Margarine and the materials for producing it are the only food products in the list.

The resolution with the list, which was signed by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, can be suspended at any time. The ministry declined to report whether the sectors that are affected by the resolution have actually increased their prices above inflation. The resolution says only that "the government has detected that in various sectors in which just a few enterprises are operating, the process of commercial opening that began in 1990 did not go far enough to check significant price increases in real terms."

The 41 products, of a total of 13,000 products on the Brazilian Custom Tariffs list, were compiled so as "not to produce excessive lack of protection, which might have caused unemployment in the national industry," the resolution states.

The list of products did not meet the expectations of economic team members. FOLHA learned that the initial proposal included home electrical appliances, electrical and electronic products, and petrochemicals. This would have had repercussions on the textile, ink, and dye production sectors. The ministry of industry, commerce,

and tourism opposed reducing taxes in those sectors on the grounds that it would have harmed the medium and long-term industrial policy.

Yesterday morning, before publication of the list of products whose import tariffs would be reduced, Minister Cardoso said that the reduction of the tariffs paid on products whose prices suffered abusive increases should make prices return to their normal level.

"It is quite an effective measure, and we should try carefully to avoid any demagogic use of it," he said. According to the minister, any country in the situation that Brazil is in, with a high level of international reserves and an open economy, would also have reduced import tariffs.

Cardoso asked entrepreneurs to respect people's aspirations and to refrain from imposing abusive price increases. "Enterprises are important, and we should appreciate both enterprises and entrepreneurs, but they should also understand that they cannot ignore the aspirations of the people. People cannot bear irresponsible price increases," the minister said.

Leadership Style of Ceara Governor Gomes Viewed

94SM0236A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 9 Feb 94 pp 23-25

[Article by Otto Sarkis: "Ceara's Collor"; introductory paragraph in boldface as published]

[Text] **Fortaleza—Ciro Gomes is copying the good and bad points of the "maharaja hunter" [Fernando Collor]. And he, too, wants to capture the presidency.**

Since taking office as governor of Ceara, the country's third-poorest state, attorney Ciro Gomes (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]), 36, has spent 263 days away from his domain—meaning that he has been absent an average of two days a week. He has made 101 trips, seven of them abroad. During his 1,059 days as governor, Ciro Gomes has reduced the infant mortality rate by 32 percent to its current level of 32 deaths per 1,000 and won awards from UNICEF for his program for training sanitary agents. Since taking office on 15 March 1991, he has been ranked as Brazil's most popular governor in polls by the IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute]. Recently, however, the Ciro Gomes administration has been infected by cholera.

Data published by the National Health Foundation (FNS) show Ceara to be the state with the most cholera cases. The governor has been no less choleric in the political area. "Congress has grown rotten," was his opening shot. In his first interview following a two-week stay in Japan and Taiwan, Ciro attacked the Left and the Right when he was questioned about the presidential succession. "No one should be deceived by the alliance between the PSDB and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]," he said. "The PMDB is a machine dominated by former Governor Orestes Quercia and former President Jose Sarney, and I am going to stay away from anyplace where those people are." The governor also hit hard at the Left. "I feel that Lula and the PT [Workers Party] are incapable of governing Brazil," he said. "The Office of President of the Republic is not the place for apprenticeship."

Ciro's interview was published on the same day that the amendment establishing the Emergency Social Fund was passed, and it caused Minister of Finance Fernando Henrique Cardoso to meet with the PMDB's top leadership for nearly two hours. The meeting was inspired by Para Governor Jader Barbalho. "Today's newspapers report attacks directed against us by the former Arena [National Renewal Alliance] member, underling to the dictatorship, and current governor of Ceara," Jader wrote in a letter, dated Wednesday, 2 February, in which he called for steps to be taken by party president Luiz Henrique. PSDB deputies became the target of jokes by their colleagues, who tried to detect in them the odor of the rotten Congress.

"Instead of speaking cholerically, the governor ought to be taking care of cholera in his state," was the criticism from Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury (PMDB). "Everything indicates that he wants to be a candidate by causing Fernando Henrique's failure," Fleury said. "I think that shot was fired from Carandiru," retorted Ciro Gomes, making a pun on the name of the penitentiary in Sao Paulo where 111 prisoners were massacred. During the first 31 days of 1994, about 7,000 cholera cases were reported in Ceara, 85 percent of them in Fortaleza. That state alone has accounted for 90 percent of all cholera cases in the country. "Cholera is a disease caused by poverty and lack of sanitation," explains FNS president Alvaro Machado.

In Brasilia and among advisers to the probable presidential candidates, Ciro Gomes's statements have increased the suspicion that his plan to leave the government for a period of study at Harvard University in the United States is nothing but talk. "He is a candidate," says a PSDB leader with ties to Senator Mario Covas. "We have already had Collor I, and now here comes Collor II," is the ironic comment by Luiz Carlos Santos (PMDB, Sao Paulo), government leader in the Chamber of Deputies. And economist Edmar Bacha, special adviser to the minister of finance, said at one meeting: "With a friend like Ciro, Fernando doesn't need any enemies."

But the festival of attacks on the PSDB's possible allies in a presidential campaign must not be regarded as a foolish political move by the governor. It is a strategic necessity for anyone needing to make room for himself in the presidential race. In distancing himself from all the political bosses, Ciro is trying to come across as a politician who is different. "I am not building my candidacy because I am not part of the old crooked politics," Ciro said in an interview with CBN radio on Thursday the 3d.

Everyday routine in the Ceara state administration proves, however, that he is very much like other governors. On the pretext of preserving a mangrove swamp, Ciro Gomes established the 600-hectare Coco Park. In that region he built the best roads in Fortaleza—providing access to the Iguatemi Shopping Center owned by the family of the PSDB's president, Tasso Jereissati. The matter of the cholera outbreak exemplifies the gap between talk and practice. The state took first place in the country [in number of cholera cases] in March 1993. The ineffectiveness of the PSDB administration can be judged from a report by the Ministry of Health. "It needs to be emphasized that in the 10 months since it took first place, [cholera] cases have risen from 21.89 per 100,000 population to 335.38 per 100,000, an increase of approximately 1,500 percent," says the report.

That jump in the number of cases at the start of this year had an even more perverse cause: the Workers Canal, the most sparkling achievement of Ciro Gomes's administration. Built in 105 days by 11 construction firms and 5,000 workers, it cost $48 million and was supposed to prevent water rationing in Fortaleza, whose 2 million residents were suffering their third year of drought. When the canal water arrived, it was brackish, and the rationing system of 48 hours with water and 48 hours without continued despite the rain that had started falling, and most of the capital's 700,000 shantytown dwellers began using water from creeks or ponds—making the cholera outbreak uncontrollable.

Since October, moved by the government's ineffectiveness in the social area, the Catholic Church has been announcing decreasing support for the state administration. A communique distributed by the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] criticized neoliberalism. With the authorization of Archbishop Aloisio Lorscheider of Fortaleza, Ciro Gomes's administration was criticized. "According to that logic, people do not count; the important thing is money and wealth," the document says. "That has also been the logic behind the Ceara administration's thinking on economic growth. Although official propaganda camouflages reality, the development plan adopted by the elites and business leaders of our state is radically strengthening neoliberalism by accelerating the concentration of income and, consequently, pronounced social inequalities."

The figures concerning a sick population forced the Ceara governor to undertake a desperate offensive to preserve the image built during his 35 months as governor and his 94 trips around Brazil. ISTOE was the target of that strategy on Thursday. At the governor's palace in Fortaleza, Gomes began a three-hour interview by suggesting that ISTOE was in the "perhaps involuntary" service "of the PMDB and Orestes Quercia." The reporter, according to Ciro's logic of persecution, had traveled to Ceara to refute the critical remarks he had made about Quercia two days earlier. But not even Ciro could believe what he was saying: his adviser Egidio Serpa had already announced that part of the attack on Quercia was a preventive measure in preparation for a "possible negative report" by our magazine. Unfortunately for Ciro's argument, the reporter had arrived in Fortaleza before the governor turned his ire on the former president of the PMDB.

Ciro Gomes is married, has three children, lives in a rented house, and drives a 1982 Parati. He renounced his pension as a state deputy and lives on a salary of about $4,000. One of his brothers is a deputy, another is a chef de cabinet, and one of his sisters is married to the manager of the video firm that produces the government's publicity films. "The firm is hired by the agencies, which win their contracts in public bidding," says Sergio Pires, the official in charge of that area. As governor, Gomes is a typical example of a politician whose finances as an individual are much more transparent than his finances as a legal entity. To avoid giving fuel to his opponents, he dissuaded a brother from buying a house with financing from a state-owned bank. On the other hand, he is unable to say how much his administration has spent on publicity. "I don't know," he told ISTOE. "With all this inflation, I can't figure it out."

Within the Ceara administration, however, the cost of roads and other public works is reported down to the penny. It is reported, but not published. State Deputy Eudoro Santana (PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]) has submitted two bills requiring the administration to publish a monthly statement of the state's accounts. The first bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly and vetoed by the governor. The second bill failed to win a majority. Unless the administration takes the initiative and makes its accounts transparent, the PSDB's spending on publicity is about to become a matter for the courts. The public prosecutor of the republic, Oscar da Costa Filho, has told ISTOE that this week he will begin a public civil action charging Ciro Gomes with personal promotion in publicity paid for out of public funds.

The governor says his lengthy interviews in official publications regarding his administration's achievements are necessary in order to break the boycott by Green Seas TV, which is the Globo Network's local affiliate but which is controlled by a political opponent of the PSDB group: businessman Edson Queiroz Filho, the brother-in-law of Tasso Jereissati. The family feud between Edson Queiroz and Tasso has led to some of the most low-down fights in Ceara politics. The governor accused the businessman of belonging to a degenerate family. The response was an article published as a paid advertisement in several of the country's newspapers and depicting Gomes as a pregnant sow.

A factor in Ciro Gomes's favor if he decides to run for president is his excellent relations with the owners and editors of Brazil's major publications. In an interview with the magazine IMPRENSA that was published in January, for example, he said he had direct access to the president of the Globo Organizations, Roberto Marinho. The two men have met with each other five times. "One 'Globo Reporter' is worth more than 100 PSDB or PT conventions," Ciro says. In 1989, that rapprochement with Globo was an essential element in helping Collor

become known as the "maharaja hunter." The next 18-hour soap opera will be recorded in Ceara.

Case of the Pregnant Sow

About 30 piglets entered the election campaign in Ceara last Christmas. Arriving in cages like those used to carry pets on aircraft, the "suckling pigs," as they are called in Ceara, were distributed to the first echelon of Ciro Gomes's administration on the evening of 24 December. A card signed by a mysterious "Fraternity of the Pregnant Sow" accompanied the "present." Days earlier, over 100,000 stickers had been distributed around the state. They showed the governor as a pregnant sow offering her teats to greedy assistant piglets.

Commenting on the episode in the local press, Ciro Gomes, faithful to his strategy of trying to turn the opposition's attacks against it, sought once again to turn the attack to his own advantage. The governor said in an interview that the fraternity in question was a support organization set up by humorous friends. The effects of that comparison on the governor's popularity are not yet known.

The story began with a debate on the "Commotion" program on Sao Paulo's Culture TV early in December. When one of the interviewees questioned the similarities between his political style and that of the adventurer Fernando Collor, Ciro said he preferred being compared to a pregnant young sow. According to the governor, the phrase is part of a popular saying in his native Sobral: "You can compare me to a pregnant sow because if I produce a litter, I'll give you one of the piglets," Ciro said.

Swinish remarks aside, the governor of Ceara's profile has visible similarities with that of the now-rejected former president who was thrown out of office because of corruption. Both men began their political careers in the PDS [Democratic Social Party] under the military governments and with jobs given to them by their fathers. Whereas Senator Arnon de Mello made his rebel son the mayor of Maceio, the former mayor of Sobral, Euclides Ferreira Gomes, rewarded his newly graduated son in 1982 by making him the municipal attorney.

From there, as a member of the PDS, Ciro ran for state deputy, was elected second alternate, and took over the seat. According to the governor, his membership in the PDS was "a matter of circumstances," since there was no room in the PMDB. Once in the Legislative Assembly, Ciro made sure that his father, mother, and one brother were given positions of trust in Gonzaga Mota's administration. When Gonzaga had a falling out with political bosses Adauto Bezerra, Virgilio Tavora, and Cesar Cals, the Ferreira Gomes family—which was part of the Cals clique—lost its three jobs in the administration.

Colombia

Cartel Lawyers Deny Client's Ties to Pepes

94SM0265Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 20 Feb 94 p 13A

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—In the first week of August 1993, the prosecutor general met in his office with the members of the law firm Ristaud & Abbel, who claimed to represent an organization of some 60 drug traffickers from the Valle del Cauca. Gustavo de Greiff told EL ESPECTADOR yesterday that "they came to be instructed on the rules for drug-trafficker surrenders, and I explained to them the entire legal framework of the policy on surrendering to justice authorities." One of them, Abbel, had been a high-ranking official of the U.S. Justice Department, in the very section that handles applications for extradition from Latin American countries.

Romulo Gomez, a Cali attorney, and Juan Fernandez Carrasquilla, a former magistrate from Bogota, visited the prosecutor general later on to give him the details of a formal proposal for the drug traffickers of the Valle del Cauca to turn themselves in. They made it clear that formally, they were only representing Gilberto Rodriguez O. and Julio Fabio Urdinola G., but that soon news would be received regarding other "colleagues."

"They mentioned that the Rodriguez Orejuela's had been cooperating with the authorities in the war against the Medellin Cartel, and that they had supplied data and information that helped the authorities in their fight against Pablo Escobar Gaviria. They wanted that to be taken into consideration," said the prosecutor general yesterday.

But when these contacts were made public, the inmates in the Itagui Prison, led by Roberto Escobar Gaviria, also sent the Prosecutor General's Office a letter naming the alleged members of the Pepes (Persecuted by Pablo Escobar) Group and demanding a judicial investigation of them. The prosecutor general responded that an offender's cooperation could only be taken into consideration after he turned himself in, not before, and the attorneys did not call back.

Neither Pepes Nor Jail

But in late 1993, after Pablo Escobar's demise, there was talk in Cali of a plan for the "staggered surrender" of 200 major drug traffickers, in which each would benefit by providing information on the next person to turn himself in.

At present, Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez has acknowledged to EL ESPECTADOR in an interview, there is only one indictment against Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela from a U.S. court and none arising out of Colombian investigations, so the most important thing is for him to confess when he surrenders so that the American case will not be pursued.

Although Rodriguez Orejuela's and Julio Fabio Urdinola's attorneys insist that their "cooperation" in the

search for Escobar should be recognized, they deny any ties with the Pepes and their organization to commit crimes through a cartel.

"With regard to that alleged organization (Pepes)," said De Greiff, "the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office have pursued many investigations, but there have been no witnesses or documentary evidence to allow us to identify its members individually."

While the letter bomb that practically blew up in Roberto Escobar's face confirmed the Pepes' threats, a letter in which Carlos Mario Alzate ("El Arete" [earring]) asked the director of prisons not to take him out of his maximum-security cell at La Picota even for judicial proceedings revealed the panic that this group's actions have instilled in members of Escobar's organization.

New Contacts

In open letters sent by Roberto Escobar from his cell to the Prosecutor General's Office, two of the people accused of belonging to the Pepes, plus one other person, met with Gustavo de Greiff in his office on 14 January. He gave them documentation attesting that no summons had been issued in their names and that they were the subject of investigations to determine their involvement in certain interrogations, pursuant to Article 369E of the new Code of Criminal Procedure, through which they had managed to mislead the authorities in a drug enforcement operation in the Valle del Cauca and evade capture.

Although various witnesses interviewed this week by EL ESPECTADOR confirmed that the head of the Drug Trafficking Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office, Cruz Helena Aguilar Echeverri, last Monday mediated a "peace pact" between two men close to the late chief of the Medellin Cartel and Luis Guillermo Angel, an alleged middleman for the "Cali people," De Greiff emphatically declared that "the Prosecutor General's Office did not, does not, and will not have any involvement, either institutional or private, in any agreement between criminal organizations."

"What happened there," explained the prosecutor general, "was the continuation of some witness examinations and a report by a witness on cases he was familiar with for the purpose of comparing his statements with those of the defendants."

What Happens Next

The house arrest requested by the drug traffickers was also ruled out in the discussions. "What must be verified now is how much they are willing to cooperate and what mechanisms can be implemented to make sure they do not continue to commit crimes through third parties," stated the prosecutor general, "but the government must also make sure that the work being done on the Cali and Palmira prisons will guarantee that they cannot escape."

History will be the judge as to whether this "surrender" will result in impunity.

[Box, p 13A]

Government Explains Surrender

The national government broke its silence on the various interpretations of the application of Article 369E of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CPP), which establishes measures to allow persons implicated in crimes to cooperate fully with the authorities. It stated its legal position on the matter in a letter to Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff.

Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez Diaz explained the purpose of the regulations and warned that some trial attorneys are trying to manipulate the system to obtain decisions that will make it easier for their clients to escape prosecution.

The minister took this stand after the alleged members of the Cali Cartel, Helmer Herrera Buitrago, Jose Olmedo Ocampo, and Juan Carlos Ramirez, appeared before the Prosecutor General's Office to request that an investigation be opened pursuant to the aforementioned CPP article.

Gonzalez Diaz stated that the mere fact that a person appears before the appropriate authority on the pretext that he is being sought by law enforcement is not legal grounds to issue an order to open a preliminary investigation or hold a probable cause hearing, and went on to say that this would put the responsibility for initiating criminal action exclusively in the hands of those who are trying to inveigle the authorities into filing criminal charges against them.

Prosecutor: U.S. 'Thin-Skinned' on Drug Issues

PA1803014494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Report by Alvaro Ayala; from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff has not let recent statements by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno upset him. Today he indicated that the United States is too thin-skinned when it comes to legalizing drugs. The prosecutor general said that U.S. diplomatic officials visited his office and that he had answered U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

[Begin recording] [De Greiff] No, no, it was not a matter of them providing support. It was just to exchange opinions.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prosecutor, one last question. It would seem that your WASHINGTON POST article has caused quite a frenzy in the United States.

[De Greiff] That is correct. I am very sorry that this has been the case. It would seem that the Americans are very thin-skinned. [end recording]

Justice Minister Sends Letter to de Greiff

94WD0262Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 20 Feb 94 p 22A

[Text] The government has decided to make public its position on the appearance of Valle drug kingpins before justice authorities. By failing to confess their crimes, the kingpins are hoping that the government will open investigations against them, whereupon the lack of evidence will virtually preclude any further action against them.

According to Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez, the government has expressed its concern and alerted Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff so that "the nation can head off the legal maneuvering of criminals who are trying to evade responsibility" and set up "an eventual impunity" for themselves.

The minister, in a seven-page letter, said that in a shrewd interpretation of the regulations on surrendering to the authorities, the drug traffickers' attorneys think their clients can go to justice officials without confessing to any crimes or cooperating in any meaningful way, so that cases will be opened and then they will be let go for lack of evidence.

"These individuals, assuming that no formal evidence will be provided in an investigation against them, are counting on a preliminary inquiry or formal prosecution to begin under the aforementioned regulations and then to result in no determination of criminal liability because of their failure to cooperate.

"In the first case, if a preliminary investigation takes place, they are hoping that after the four-month term is up, as provided in the code, the Prosecutor General's Office would be forced to issue an order of dismissal, which would not make the case *res judicata*, but would be a convenient mechanism for making it appear that the individual is not a suspect in any crime.

"In the second case, that is, if they try to get a criminal investigation opened, their objective is none other than to have an inquiry begin that would then find no evidence against them, whereupon they could request (...) that the Prosecutor General's Office issue a ruling in the preliminary hearing that would preclude a probable cause proceeding. That order would indeed make the case *res judicata*, which could eventually lead to impunity for them."

With reference to the letter, De Greiff told EL TIEMPO yesterday that "the Prosecutor General's Office, as a division of the judicial branch, will not issue general directives; it will issue only the writs and other orders that are within its purview, in each particular case. Therefore, it will take no position on the minister's letter."

The minister's letter comes in the wake of the appearance of three alleged drug kingpins of the Valle region, Elmer Herrera Buitrago ("Pacho Herrera"), Luis Carlos Ramirez Abadia, and Jose Olmedo Ocampo, at the Prosecutor General's Office between 11 and 14 January of this year.

Herrera, Ramirez, and Ocampo and their attorneys stated that they were appearing before justice officials pursuant to Article 369E of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides that anyone who has good cause to believe he is being sought by the authorities may appear before justice officials to clarify his legal status.

After the appearances, the Prosecutor General's Office ordered the corresponding preliminary inquiries to begin, because, as De Greiff explained, no charges had been filed or evidence gathered that would make it possible to arrest them.

The appearance of the three alleged drug traffickers precipitated meetings this week between De Greiff and Attorney General of the Nation Carlos Gustavo Arrieta and President Cesar Gaviria. The latter expressed concern that he had not been informed of the matter and called for closer cooperation.

The government believes that Article 369E applies to cases of individuals who "are known to be or firmly believe themselves to be sought or pursued by the authorities."

In other words, people who are currently being investigated or who, knowing that no such investigation is taking place, turn themselves in precisely to confess their crimes.

According to Gonzalez's letter, in the government's view, "if a person merely appears before the authorities without providing any evidence of a punishable act or possible criminal liability, there are no grounds to open an investigation, because that would mean putting the responsibility for initiating criminal action in the hands of potential defendants," with the risk of the maneuvers mentioned above.

Launching investigations prematurely without solid evidence or without a confession or acknowledgement of guilt by the individual could result in impunity, according to the government.

Confession

The executive branch's position on this matter is that, when individuals who are not the subject of criminal investigations come forward, Article 369B of the new code applies, "which is why the article is entitled 'Benefits for Persons Not Being Prosecuted.'"

Specifically, the article states: "If the person giving testimony freely and spontaneously confesses his participation in punishable acts, pursuant to Article 33 of the Political Constitution, and cooperates to ensure that justice is done, an investigation shall be opened in his case."

This is the scope of the new regulations for the surrender policy, says the minister. In essence, these regulations require effective cooperation with law enforcement so that a preliminary investigation or formal probable cause proceeding may take place, resulting in sufficient evidence to prosecute the person appearing to provide such evidence.

"We cannot forget the basic objective of the justice system, which is to bring criminals to justice, either by pursuing them until they are arrested and convicted, or by applying the surrender policy on the basis of cooperation for effective administration of justice."

Finally, in his letter to De Greiff, the minister urges that a consensus be reached so that "we can continue the surrender program on the proper terms" and so that the government can decide what guarantees it will offer, including incarceration facilities and other security measures.

"Because this issue is so important for the country, the government believes it is essential to maintain close and constant cooperation and coordination with the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office in this regard. In that way, the concerns that have been expressed can be taken into consideration and a consensus can be reached on such vital issues, and this will benefit the surrender policy," emphasizes the letter.

[Box, p 22A]

Highlights of the Letter

- The mere fact that a person appears before the appropriate authority on the pretext that he is being sought by law enforcement is not, in our opinion, legal grounds for issuing an order to open a preliminary investigation or probable cause proceeding; if that were to occur, the decision to pursue criminal action would be placed exclusively in the hands of those who are deceitfully trying to get a criminal prosecution going against themselves (...).

Anyone who appears without intending to cooperate is only trying to inveigle the authorities into issuing a decision that will serve as an obstacle later on, to prevent unfavorable rulings when the state manages to obtain sufficient evidence of his guilt.

- A person appearing for the sole purpose of having an investigation opened so that the state will try to prove that he committed a punishable act runs counter to the purpose of the regulation, which is to ensure the effectiveness of justice; unless the person simply confesses his crime, in which case Article 369B of the Code of Criminal Procedure should be applied.
- The application of Article 369E of the procedural statute is predicated upon cooperation with justice authorities. Indeed, the aforementioned regulation is part of the legal institution known as "surrender to and cooperation with justice authorities," which is aimed at imposing the proper penalties on those who have violated other people's rights but who have agreed to abide by the social and legal order. That is also the reason why the appearance is made exclusively before the prosecutor general of the nation or his deputy.
- The provisions that set forth rewards for cooperating with justice authorities distinguish between two situations: that of persons who are being prosecuted and that of persons who are not.

As for the first case, it necessarily implies that the authorities have evidence of the person's guilt, so coming forward and cooperating effectively are among the many criteria taken into consideration in the discretionary decision to grant the benefits provided by law (literal E), Article 369A.

Now, if the person is not being criminally prosecuted, Article 369B of the Code of Criminal Procedure should be applied. It was specifically designed to address such cases, which is why it is entitled "Benefits for Persons not Being Prosecuted." Its second paragraph states: "If the person giving testimony freely and spontaneously confesses his participation in punishable acts, pursuant to Article 33 of the Political Constitution, and cooperates to ensure that justice is done, an investigation shall be opened in his case...." It should be noted that in this case, appearing before the authorities is not one of the criteria for deciding whether to grant benefits, and, therefore, it was expressly excluded as a reason for granting benefits during the debate and passage of the law in the Congress of the Republic.

- From the above, it is concluded that as we interpret Article 369E of the procedural statute, the following prerequisites would have to be met for its application:

a. That there be effective cooperation in the administration of justice, in accordance with the criteria that govern such matters.

b. That there be a preliminary investigation or formal probable cause proceeding.

c. That such proceedings result in sufficient evidence to prosecute anyone who is thought to be involved in criminal activity or who has come forward to provide such evidence.

De Greiff on Church Investigation, Drug Legalization

PA1703193494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Papal Nuncio Monsignor Paolo Romeo said that the prosecutor general has no authority to interfere in church matters or to investigate any of its bishops. Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said the investigations will continue.

[Begin recording] [de Greiff] We are studying that. Msgr. Paolo Romeo argues his point, and the Attorney General's Office says the Concordat is not in effect. We must study these things in detail and make a decision at the proper time.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the investigations against the bishops continue?

[De Greiff] Yes. [end recording]

Regarding the drug legalization issue, the prosecutor general said:

[Begin de Greiff recording] That is not the government's position. It is my position in light of the failure of the methods being used to fight drug trafficking by which the producing and trading counties carry all the weight, while consumer nations do very little. I think this is the only solution, but it is something that must be studied. [end recording]

Regarding possible U.S. reactions to his position, de Greiff said:

[Begin de Greiff recording] I do not think they would be as imperialistic as to do that. Nevertheless, if they did it, we would judge them. [end recording]

Government Asks Cuba for Explanation of Guerrilla Summit

PA1703192094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "Nacional Newscast"]

[Text] The nation's general prosecutor [Gustavo De Grieff] sent the Foreign Ministry hard evidence confirming a guerrilla summit was held in Havana at the beginning of 1994. Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin will ask the Cuban Government for an explanation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] Madam Minister: A few days ago, you ruled out this possibility; you said you trusted the Cuban Government. What made you change your mind? Why are you asking for an explanation?

[Sanin] Things happen between states the same as between individuals, and while one does not have evidence, demonstrations, or proof, the principle of good faith is maintained. Otherwise, we would be engaged in completely aggressive international relations. That day, I said that if the Colombian Government obtained proof or evidence of Cuban or any other nation's interference in its internal affairs, we would act accordingly. Yesterday, the prosecutor general visited me and he gave me the evidence. There are serious signs of a guerrilla presence at a meeting held in Cuba. We still cannot label it treason or subversive; this still has to be investigated. Therefore, in keeping with the offer and our obligations, we are asking the Cuban Government for an explanation. Once we have their reply we will proceed. [end recording]

Prosecutor Supplies Evidence

PA1803032994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Report by Alvaro Ayala; from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Excerpt] Similar to his revelations on the excesses committed at the La Catedral Jail, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff once again hit the nail on the head. This time he supplied evidence to the government that Colombian guerrillas and a bishop attended a secret summit in Cuba in January, which EL TIEMPO newspaper has been reporting. The prosecutor general today reported that part of the Guerrilla Coordinating Board leadership met in Havana, Cuba, with a Colombian bishop.

Although he did not give any names to avoid violating legal proceedings, it was learned that over the past few hours the prosecutor visited President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin. He delivered a document and informed them about the status of the investigations into a trip to Cuba by guerrilla leaders Alfonso Cano [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, general staff], Ivan Marquez [FARC], Alberto Gutierrez Bermudez, and Lionel Pardo.

[Begin recording] [De Greiff] We have evidence that shows that guerrilla leaders or subversives, whatever you want to call them, went to Cuba.

[Ayala] Was Monsignor Nel Beltran also there?

[De Greiff] A bishop was there; I cannot say who. [end recording]

The Colombian Episcopal Conference insists that Bishop Nel Beltran was not the one in Cuba. However, intelligence organizations report that the priest traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica, to attend a religious summit, rested 15 days in the United States afterwards, and on his way back returned via Cancun, Mexico, from where he traveled to Havana to attend the meeting which EL TIEMPO newspaper has reported. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Criticizes Amnesty International

PA1803024894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda believes that reports by Amnesty International are groundless and biased and that they are merely designed to undermine the interests of the military.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Miriam Ortiz] The report says the government has been unable to control military operations and guarantee that such operations are carried out in accordance with the law.

[Rueda] The government and the overseeing authorities constantly strive to ensure that activities by all government officials are performed in accordance with the law. [end recording]

Pardo assures that whenever charges of torture and kidnapping are filed against any member of the Armed Forces, the first people to respond are the commanders of those accused.

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] Are people being punished nowadays when it is proved that such things have indeed occurred?

[Rueda] Yes, the law is being enforced. The regulations are being enforced, and we are doing this by way of policy guidelines that are solely designed to ensure that all members of the public forces abide by the law. [end recording]

CNC-EL TIEMPO Poll Shows Samper Leading

94SM0259A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Feb 94 p 6A

[Article by Maria Teresa Ronderos, political editor of EL TIEMPO]

[Text] Before venturing into the fascinating results of this poll, in which a representative sample of Colombians not only say for whom they are going to vote, but also describe the candidates and say what they want changed in the next government, our readers need a word of warning.

This poll was done BEFORE Andres Pastrana entered the campaign and announced his platform. We wanted to take the pulse of public opinion just before his campaign began, and then measure it again in a few weeks so we can evaluate the impact of the official start of his campaign.

Also, while the poll was being conducted (which took a week because it used personal interviews) and the results analyzed, Colombian politics was suddenly jolted. Alvaro Gomez announced that he was putting aside his antipathy toward the Pastrana family and joining the Pastranist bandwagon; Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, a former member of the Constituent Congress, entered the campaign as a candidate for the Liberal Party primary; and another hopeful, Gloria Gaitan, made use of the door Lleras had opened to join in the liberal contest.

In order to reflect part of these sudden changes, EL TIEMPO asked the CNC [National Survey Center] to conduct a telephone poll in Colombia's five largest cities to investigate the liberal primary results with the two new candidates included. If the liberal primary to select a single presidential candidate were held today, the results would be: Ernesto Samper, 54 percent; Humberto de la Calle, 14 percent; Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, 12 percent; Carlos Lemos Simmonds, 8 percent; David Turbay, 3 percent; and Rodolfo Gonzalez and Gloria Gaitan, each with 1 percent.

Lleras de la Fuente's impact is considerable, especially in Bogota, where he would get his highest percentage: 18 percent. In Barranquilla, though, he would only get 4 percent. Judging by former polls, Lleras would take some votes from Lemos, something from Samper, and a little from De la Calle. But he also attracts new votes from people who said they would vote for none of the candidates or did not know for whom they would vote.

The First Round

Like the poll results broadcast in recent days by the major radio stations, this poll shows that the presidential race is no longer tied between Samper and Pastrana. Samper gets 39 percent of the votes, and Pastrana, 32 percent. This seven-point difference is significant, as the margin of error is 3.1 percent.

In third place is Antonio Navarro, the Democratic/Alliance M-19 candidate with 11 percent, followed by Miguel Maza Marquez with 4 percent. Regina Betancourt is next with 3 percent; then Enrique Parejo, 2 percent; Gabriel Melo, 1 percent; and Rodrigo Marin and Juan Diego Jaramillo, less than 1 percent each.

Samper is strongest in midsized cities, where he gets 46 percent. Pastrana's support, though, is spread proportionally among small, midsized, and large cities. Navarro gets most of his support in small cities, where he wins 15 percent. Maza is stronger in large and midsized cities; Parejo, in large cities. The fact that the poll included Barranquilla and Santa Marta among large and midsized cities explains why the latter two candidates, both from the coast, did well there.

As in former polls, this shows that Samper has a considerable edge among men and people over 40. If only women and young people voted, Pastrana would catch up to Samper. Navarro also does better with the 18 to 24 age group.

First Presidential Round

Candidate	Percentage
Samper	39
Pastrana	32
Navarro	11
Maza	4
Regina	3
Parejo	2
Melo	1
Marin	under 1
Jaramillo	under 1
None of the above	5
Do not know; did not answer	3

Second Presidential Round	
Candidate	Percentage
Samper	49
Pastrana	40
Other	12

The most striking fact is the great difference among social classes. Pastrana leads Samper by 25 percent in the upper classes; Samper leads by 9 points among the middle classes, and the two candidates are virtually tied among voters from the lowest classes.

Looking at the results by party, both Pastrana and Samper pick up votes from members of the opposing parties. Nine percent of the conservatives say they will vote for Samper, and 12 percent of the liberals say they will vote for Pastrana. Still, Pastrana does better than all his rivals with people who say they have no party affilation; 35 percent say they will vote for Pastrana.

Why Did Samper Go Up?

"Please think about what you know, have heard, and have seen that Andres Pastrana has done in the last three months, and tell me if at this time you feel more inclined, less inclined, or equally inclined to vote for him than you were three months ago," the people surveyed were asked. The same question was asked about Ernesto Samper. The answers show the shift.

Twenty-seven percent said they were more inclined to vote for Andres and 30 percent less inclined, giving him a 3 percent negative balance. Perhaps that is the cost of starting his campaign late. Samper, though, has 35 percent more inclined and 21 percent less inclined, a positive balance of 14 points.

During the last three months, have you changed your mind about voting for:			
Candidate	More inclined (percent)	Less inclined (percent)	No change (percent)
Samper	35	21	29
Pastrana	27	30	27

Some political analysts say Samper's considerable gain is due to the intense work done by the Liberal Party machinery since the beginning of the year, aiming at the parliamentary elections. There are 134 candidates for the Senate and 302 candidates for the Chamber: 436 liberal candidates mobilizing thousands of people in support of their party. That has to help the candidate with the best chance of winning the Liberal Party primary.

The Samper campaign takes the view that Samper's central message, the fight against unemployment, has now taken hold of people, and more people now think this candidate is the one who would best deal with unemployment.

In this poll, the problem most citizens cited as the leading problem is unemployment (56 percent), followed by lack of safety for the population, with 14 percent (most frequently mentioned in large cities and by people from the lowest social classes), and guerrilla violence (11 percent).

What do you think is the nation's top problem?	
	Percent
Unemployment	56
Citizens' safety	14
Guerrillas	11
Education	6
Drug traffic	5
Housing	4
Health care	4
Do not know; did not answer	1

According to Pastrana's campaign managers, things will change after the congressional elections, as the liberal machinery's activity will decline. There is also a broad group of undecided voters, among whom, according to their research, Pastrana has more support. They say that after a few weeks of campaigning, many of these undecided voters will decide to support the New Democratic Force candidate.

Perhaps also for the reasons stated above, Samper appears to have a 9 percent edge over Pastrana in a possible second round.

What Do They Want Changed?

In general, when asked if they prefer change or continuity in government policies, people generally say they want change. And, according to this poll, a considerable majority would like a change in direction in some specific policies: social policy, dealings with the guerrillas, and privatization of state enterprises. In the first case, 60 percent of the Colombian people would like the next president to change social policy, while 28 percent would like the same policy to continue. Sixty-three percent want a change in the method of dealing with the guerrillas, and 29 percent would like the present course to continue. A similar pattern is seen with the privatization of state enterprises (see table).

On which of the following issues would you like the next president to continue Gaviria's policy, and which you like to be changed?			
Issue	Continue (%)	Change (%)	Do not know; did not answer (%)
Handling of the economy	35	59	7
International relations	44	44	12
Handling of the guerrillas	29	63	8

Handling of the drug traffic	43	50	8
Social policy	28	60	12
Privatization of state enterprises	27	63	11

Change in handling the guerrillas is desired most in large cities. Where the most people would like a change in social policy is in large and small cities.

On the economy, the majority, 59 percent, would like new strategies, but 35 percent want continuity. International relations and the handling of the drug traffic is where most people would like the next government to maintain the current president's policy.

Characteristics

Even though the trend shows Samper ahead of Pastrana, when people describe the candidates' characteristics, they see in each of them particular strengths and weaknesses (see table).

Of the two leading candidates, in whom do you think the following characteristics most predominate?

Characteristic	Pastrana (%)	Samper (%)	Both (%)	Neither (%)
Experience	29	46	12	6
Leadership	35	41	11	4
Honesty	26	33	17	14
Understanding of people's problems	30	34	15	9
Intelligence	25	34	27	4
Credibility	31	37	13	10
Ability to solve the country's problems	29	36	19	9

Samper's best recognized characteristic, compared with Pastrana, is experience. On this point the liberal has a 17-point advantage over his rival.

The quality most people attribute to Pastrana is leadership. Where he is closest to his rival is his understanding of ordinary people's problems; on this point, they are practically tied, taking the margin of error into account.

When people are asked what they want of their president, the first thing they mention is honesty (32 percent); then an ability to solve people's problems (25 percent); experience (19 percent); and intelligence (12 percent). Strangely, leadership is not one of the top-priority qualities.

What do you think is the principal characteristic Colombia's next president needs to have?

Quality	Percentage
Honesty	32
Problem-solving ability	25
Experience	19
Intelligence	12
Leadership	3
Credibility	3
Understanding	3

Technical Polling Data

This poll was conducted for EL TIEMPO by the CNC among 1,100 people who said they are going to vote in the upcoming presidential elections.

A random sample of households was chosen in four large cities: Bogota, Cali, Medellin, and Barranquilla; six midsized cities: Santa Marta, Ibague, Pereira, Cucuta, Pasto, and Villavicencio; and 12 small cities: Yarumal, Sogamoso, Zipaquira, Lorica, Fundacion, La Dorada, Buenaventura, San Jose de Isnos, Santander de Quilichao, Floridablanca, Cordoba (Bolivar), and Calarca.

The interviews were conducted in person between 6 and 10 February. An EL TIEMPO reporter accompanied a CNC interviewer for one day in Bogota and interviewed some of the persons polled in greater depth.

This poll's maximum margin of error is 3.1 percent. This means that if a candidate gets 30 percent in the poll, in reality his vote may be between 27 and 33 percent.

Because of the last-minute changes in Liberal Party primary candidates, EL TIEMPO asked the CNC to do a new poll to measure voting intentions with the new range of candidates.

This poll was done on 16 and 17 February by telephone. Six hundred people chosen at random were called in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, and Bucaramanga. In this survey, the margin of error is 4.1 percent.

Ecuador

President Denounces TSE Ruling on Call to Referendum

PA1703174594 Quito Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0133 GMT 17 Mar 94

["Address to the nation" by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen in Tokyo—live]

[Text] Fellow citizens: I am addressing you from Tokyo. I have taken a break from my activities during my official visit to Japan to refer to an event that I believe sets a very serious precedent for the country: the arbitrary decision made by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal

[TSE] to declare the summons to a referendum inadmissible. Article 79, Paragraph O of the Constitution unequivocally and precisely establishes the president's unquestionable right to summon a popular referendum to decide issues that he believes are of extreme importance to the state. Removed—as has always been my case—from any sort of political, personal, or party interest, I decided to call a referendum so we can discuss, for the first time, various topics of great national importance. My intention was and continues to be for the Ecuadoran people, all fellow citizens, to directly and sovereignly express an opinion and decide how our country should be, how the Ecuador we desire for our children should be.

Nevertheless, the unconstitutional and surprising TSE attitude, which cannot legally disqualify my summons, attempts to hush the people's supreme voice—our voice—through an illegal act.

On what legal precedence does the TSE interpret the Constitution and state that my summons to a referendum is unconstitutional? The TSE's decision is absurd, and I denounce and reject it. The decision dangerously challenges the essence of democracy. In fact, it keeps the people from directly participating in the country's political life and from deciding on its resources and alternatives.

How much longer must our country witness the repeated and useless power struggles? What dark agreements and last-minute arrangements will the legislative majorities make to resolve their fierce disputes for control of the basic institutions that are required to strengthen and improve our democratic life and to ensure the thorough development of our people?

The time has come to change and respect the people's right to express themselves on significant national issues. Thus, with great firmness, the president of the Republic and the national government will not falter in their efforts to carry out this legitimate referendum. Based on our democratic discipline and with due respect for the Constitution and the laws of the country, I have instructed the vice president of the Republic, as acting president, and my government to resort to legal measures to see that my constitutional right to consult the people and the people's inalienable authority to express themselves on the most important national problems be respected. Any attempt to negate my and the Ecuadoreans' rights is a serious mistake that will have a negative effect on the very nature of our democracy.

I call all of you to join efforts so that we can defend our rights together. I call on you to join us in defense of the democracy we want to maintain and protect in our country.

Paraguay

PRF Receives DPRK Vice President; Communique Issued

PY1803021294 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 94 p 11

[Text] The Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], which hosted the visit of North Korean Vice Premier Kim Pok-sin to the country, has released a communique expressing its solidarity with the North Korean desire for unity. The communique asks the national government to maintain diplomatic or commercial relations with this socialist country.

"Our party had the honor of hosting a delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The delegation was headed by Vice Premier Kim Pok-sin and other North Korean Social Democratic Party members. The visit's purpose was to seek the opening of official relations with our government and counteract the biased disinformation and slander campaign against the DPRK that is disseminated by powers with world hegemonic interests in the region and that does not allow Korean brothers to seek their own solutions to their differences," the PRF communique says.

The communique adds that the delegation, accompanied by PRF politicians, fulfilled an agenda that included meetings with national government authorities and leaders of political parties, social movements, entrepreneurs, and industry.

The communique says the DPRK has made a 10-point proposal for Korea's reunification leading to the creation of a federative state encompassing north and south. The proposal says the new state will be established on the basis of mutual recognition and reciprocal tolerance of existing ideologies and regimes, with a unified national government where both states would have equal participation and similar prerogatives and obligations.

The communique says the Korean people are a homogeneous nation whose people lived in the same territory sharing their blood and cultural links for five millennia. The note says that ideological and administrative differences cannot be obstacles to peaceful coexistence.

"The PRF, as is well stated in its political ideology, is loyal to the principle of internationalism, the brotherhood of peoples, and their right to self-determination. This means that from the PRF's viewpoint, the national government must build links with all nations in the world within the framework of mutual respect. Peaceful coexistence feeds on these principles and relations between peoples must be funneled through cultural, technical, and commercial relations with due respect for each nation's idiosyncrasies," the PRF document stresses.

We must recall that the Korean vice president and his entourage were not received by his Paraguayan counterpart, Angel Roberto Seifart. Vice Presidential Secretary General Victor Hugo Pena said the request for a meeting with Seifart was made in Seifart's capacity as vice president at a time he was acting president because of President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's absence from the country. Another source said, however, that the meeting did not materialize because our country does not maintain diplomatic relations with the DPRK.

Peru

Commentary Urges Resumption of U.S. Aid

PY1703231094 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 8 Mar 94 p A12

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Should Peru Be Punished"]

[Text] When Alberto Fujimori assumed the Peruvian presidency in 1990, he inherited a devastating war with a bloodthirsty guerrilla group—the Shining Path—which claimed the lives of 20,000 persons and cost $20 billion. The Peruvian economy had shrunk by an amazing 20 percent during the two previous years and inflation was running at 7,000 percent. A U.S. company that specializes in risk analysis rated Peru as the most dangerous place in the world to do business.

Over a span of less than four years, President Fujimori has managed to overcome formidable obstacles. His government has dealt such a heavy blow to the Shining Path that many Peruvians who had to emigrate—and even some tourists—are returning to what used to be battlefields. Fujimori's free trade policy has curbed inflation and turned our country into the fastest growing economy in the Americas. It is hardly surprising that he now enjoys overwhelming popularity among his fellow countrymen.

Despite all this, Fujimori has been unable to achieve one crucial victory—to be accepted by the U.S. Government. Some U.S. officials say Fujimori's achievements will always be stained by the harsh tactics he used to redress that state of affairs. In April 1992, President Fujimori dissolved Congress, suspended the Constitution, and took almost total control of the country on the grounds that this was the only way to prevent the savage Shining Path from seizing power and to end dilatory tactics in the Peruvian Congress which thwarted the economic reform. Peruvians applauded Fujimori's decision to wage a war against the guerrillas and to undertake economic reforms.

The United States, however, condemned his actions and suspended its economic aid even though Fujimori kept his promise of holding Parliamentary elections to draft a new Constitution. Human rights associations and leftist groups displayed more concern about this than about the suffering of the Peruvian people when their lives were at the mercy of Shining Path terrorists—at the mercy of whom they still are to a certain extent because the Shining Path killed 750 people last year. U.S. Congress leaders and President Clinton contend that it is impossible to settle the issue of U.S. economic aid to Peru unless Fujimori takes additional steps to strengthen the democratic process and to improve respect for human rights in Peru.

Nevertheless, the Clinton administration does not consider democracy to be a top priority when dealing with countries that are more strategically important. Washington openly endorsed Yeltsin when he dissolved the Russian Parliament last year. Fujimori argues that Yeltsin undoubtedly drew his inspiration from Peru and that Russian intelligence services consulted their Peruvian counterparts before Yeltsin's action.

Private investors have already reached their own conclusions concerning Peru and are expeditiously acting to support our country through their investments because it offers so many possibilities, is making headway to consolidate its stability, and its president enjoys enormous popularity at home.

It is high time for the Clinton administration to give up its hypocritical and moralistic attitude, which it readily overlooks whenever interests dictate, and to resume its economic aid to Peru.

Police Report Large Drug Shipment Seized

PY1703235194 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Mar 94 p A13

[Text] Three Colombian and one Peruvian drug trafficking rings (involving the Cachique Rivera brothers) were using the landing strip in "El Diamante" native community in the town of Boca del Manu, Madre de Dios Department, when a large consignment of drugs was seized on 26 February.

The three Colombian "firms" are headed by Colombians known as "Pablo" or "Pablito," "Caballo," and "Duro."

The Peruvian organization is headed by the Cachique Rivera brothers.

The shipment of 3,653 kg of washed cocaine paste, wrapped in 75 bags, was seized in the aforementioned location.

The drug had been stockpiled in underground "caches" in the jungle near the 1,800-meter landing strip of "El Diamante," ready to be loaded into small planes bound for Colombia.

The route currently used by the Colombian "narcopilots" includes Colombia, Brazil, and Peru. Brazilian airspace and the city of Cruzeiro, near Ucayali, are used by Colombian mafia organizations to ship the drugs to Colombia.

The "traffickers" take this route to elude the Yurimaguas radar and the possibility of being pursued by the Peruvian Air Force T-27 planes that patrol Peruvian airspace in Upper Huallaga.

Intelligence sources have shown that traffickers have moved to areas like Apurimac Department and the jungle edges in Ayacucho, Pasco, Cusco, and Madre de Dios Departments because of the interdiction activities by the Peruvian forces of order.

Traffickers take the drug, which is stockpiled in the production areas in Upper Huallaga, Aguaytia, Ucayali, Pozuzo, Pichis Palcazu, Oxapampa (Pasco Department) and Palmapampa (Ayacucho Department), to shipment areas where it is worth more.

Air, land, and river transportation are used to reach the shipment "points."

From the shipment areas—one of which was "El Diamante," Boca del Manu, in Madre de Dios Department—the drugs are taken to Colombia aboard small Colombian planes.

The 13 traffickers detained on 26 February during a combined operation were interrogated yesterday by the Counternarcotic Division (Dinandro) of the Peruvian National Police.

2,400 Shining Path Guerrillas Surrender in Huanuco

PY1703203494 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Mar 94 p A1

[Text] On 3 March, Dr. Daniel Espichan Tumay, special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, announced one of the most significant desertions from the ranks of Shining Path. During the past week, 2,400 persons had surrendered to various military units in Leoncio Prado Province (Huanuco Department) during the past week in order to seek shelter under the Repentance Law.

Dr. Espichan Tumay pointed out that the arrivals at the Tingo Maria barracks included not only individuals and families, but also entire communities who were tired of Shining Path's oppression and subjection and decided to surrender.

Dr. Espichan Tumay noted that there are now 4,099 repentant terrorist nationwide, including this huge contingent.

Dr. Espichan Tumay visited the aforementioned area last week and personally watched this voluntary surrender of Shining Path persons who want to regain their legal status.

Dr. Espichan Tumay added: "We are winning the war without hurting anyone. The surrender of entire communities is a clear demonstration that the Repentance Law is yielding the expected results."

Dr. Espichan Tumay pointed out that the commission he heads, which is evaluating the cases of repentant terrorists, is carrying out the appropriate coordination work in order to review all these cases.

The special prosecutor for terrorist crimes again asked judicial branch officials and officials from the Attorney General's Office to speed up the paperwork involving repentant terrorists.

Agriculture Leader on Need To Restructure

94SM0262A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Feb 94 p B16

[Report on interview with Augusto Cilloniz Benavides, president of the Association of Peruvian Agriculturists, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] The Association of Peruvian Agriculturists (AEA) became affiliated with the National Confederation of Private Business (Confiep) in November 1993. At that time, it set out to improve the basic conditions for establishing a modern agricultural sector without limitations on private property or investment. Three months later, AEA President Augusto Cilloniz Benavides says they already have a membership of 110 agriculturists. The goal is to enroll some 2,500 (or almost all those owning more than 20 hectares). In the midst of this process, the agriculturist leader describes the criteria that will guide the AEA's activities directed toward working for the modernization of infrastructure, investment, education, information, and health. The summary of his conversation with EL COMERCIO follows.

Lack of Structures

In addition to what has been called the problem of Peruvian agriculture—read "financing"—there is the lack of a business structure to coordinate the processes of planting, investing, selecting, marketing, and selling.

"In the mining and fishing sectors, the Central Peru Mining Enterprise, the Peruvian Iron Mines Enterprise, and the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency remained productive, despite being owned by the state. In agriculture, this does not apply."

Thus Augusto Cilloniz Benavides, president of the Association of Peruvian Agriculturists, sums up his thoughts on the problems of the agricultural sector.

According to Cilloniz, the origins of the decline in agriculture can be studied, for example, in the experience of the sugar mill companies.

"They were forced to become cooperatives, and now they do not have the support for efficient operations," he said.

The agriculture leader said that 90 percent of sugar production is in the hands of small proprietors who have lost the capacity to maintain a business structure. This has resulted in the destruction of the irrigation, farm

machinery, and marketing systems infrastructures, as well as the destruction of companies involved in agriculture.

Financing Is a Matter of Real Guarantees

[EL COMERCIO] Financing then is not a problem for agriculture?

[Cilloniz] Yes, it is. But more than financing, the main problem is the system of financing and the real guarantees that agricultural business offers.

In order to exist, credit must be managed with reasonable risk. The agriculture sector, with its low levels of productivity, its inadequate marketing systems, and its health-related problems, is a high-risk sector.

Any financial institution, whether it calls itself a commercial or development bank, or a rural fund, requires a real guarantee by the farmer. It also requires technical support to assure the farmer and the bank that the loan will be well employed and the risk will be minimum.

Cilloniz cites as a useful experience in dealing with the problem of guarantees the Joint Responsibility Financing, conducted in the Huaral and Canete valleys. This project consists of farmers forming associations and contributing to a fund of guarantees that enables them to deal with any unforeseen circumstances that befall any of the members.

There Are Several Levels of Agriculture

There is no single agriculture sector, but rather three levels or sublevels with different problems and possibilities.

The first is the level attained by export crops, which already have an assured market. They generally possess technical support provided by the exporting firms. According to Cilloniz, these farmers have no "serious problems."

The second level is composed of industrial crops whose prices are quoted on the international commodities markets. Included in this category are, for example, coffee, corn, rice, cotton, and sorghum. Their principal characteristic is that the demand for them is known.

If these products are managed in a technically adequate manner, the risk is only moderate and they are creditworthy. In addition, companies participate in the management, such as those that purchase textiles, in the case of cotton, for example.

The problems arise at the third level, for peasants in subsistence agriculture who grow tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic, and some of the fruit normally produced for the domestic market. In agriculture as in any other productive activity, the market should determine the final price. However, the very poor condition of wholesale markets prevents that rule from taking affect.

As a result, the AEA believes it is necessary to complete construction of the Santa Anita market, so that farmers will have a suitable place to market their products.

The Agrarian Funds Have Only Fulfilled Their Social Welfare Role

If the problems are concentrated in subsistence agriculture, the AEA believes that the Agrarian Funds have been limited to a social role.

The purpose of the credits extended by the Agrarian Funds has been purely social. The problem is that there is a very low rate of loan repayment and inadequate management of lines of credit.

Therefore, AEA proposes that the role of the state be intensified in the areas of research and plant disease, as investment conditions in agriculture are evident.

[EL COMERCIO] Is it good business to invest in agriculture?

[Cilloniz] There is no such thing as good or bad business, only good and bad businessmen.

Cilloniz thus assures us that if a farmer knows how to purchase his supplies, sows with the help of technical assistance, and negotiates with buyers, and if the marketing infrastructure improves, that farmer is certain to get good results.

[Box, p B16]

"One of the sectors that will grow most in coming years is agriculture, basically because we are starting out from a very low base, because everything is to be developed anew, and because we have rejoined the financial world.... I think we will grow even more than Chile, because we have more resources than they do," says AEA President Augusto Cilloniz on the future of agriculture.

[Box, p B16]

Five Short-Term Proposals

The AEA announced that its activities in future years will be directed toward five principal areas.

1. Marketing Systems
—Modernize marketing.
—Standardize packaging and canning.

2. Information Systems
—Disseminate systematically all the information already available that is needed by farmers, for example, that information produced by the Office of Agrarian Information of the Ministry of Agriculture.

3. Health Measures
—An agreement with the National Agrarian Health System and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture to initiate programs leading to the

elimination of the "fruit fly," the "pink worm," and Aftosa fever, which create obstacles to agricultural exports.

4. Technical Support for Farmers
—An agreement with the IPAE [Peruvian Institute of Business Administration] for the creation of agriculture-livestock technical institutes to prepare mid-level technicians to participate in agricultural productive processes.

5. Investment
—Direct the interest of investors in agriculture so that they will establish contact with agricultural businessmen, either in associations or as individuals, who produce for export.
—Intensify investment in the production of lemons, tangerines, melons, alligator pears, garlic, and onions, for export.

Newspaper Terms La Cantuta Law 'Intolerable'

94SM0261A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
14 Feb 94 p A2

[[Editorial by General Manager Luis Miro Quesada G.: "And Where Is the Democratic Contract?"

[Text] If a State governed by law does not exist or the law is not observed, if a balance and independence of powers does not exist or is not observed, if human rights do not exist or are not observed, then governmental democracy does not exist. Nor does it exist if the rights of persons are disregarded and abused. And that is what is happening today in Peru and what has been borne out in the recent "La Cantuta" and "Vaticano" cases.

In suddenly passing a law to prevent the "La Cantuta" case from being ventilated in the court of original jurisdiction, what the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] has perpetrated signifies, to my understanding, that the 5 April 1992 breach of constitutionality continues in force, that the CCD is a formalism, and that we are continuing under a civil-military regime. The responsibility for this, in history, must be borne by Mr. Fujimori.

Not only the congressmen of the minority but also recognized authorities in matters of constitutional law fully agree on the legal flaws in the act that was recently passed by the CCD majority. Basing my comments on their authoritative opinions, I shall refer succinctly to each of these flaws.

First, the scandalous and illegal parliamentary procedure invoked to pass that law. Scandalous because it was introduced suddenly for immediate enactment, without going through committee proceedings, and was reported out for promulgation without awaiting its enactment, and without even awaiting the minority's motion for reconsideration. Illegal because, according to the Constitution adopted recently by those same congressmen: "Absent an exception stipulated in the By-Laws of the Congress, no bill shall be given the force of law without having been previously reported out by the Standing Committee concerned." I do not know, but it would be absurd were the by-laws to contemplate such exception for a law of this importance to the country's judicial institution.

Second, the intrinsic unconstitutionality of the law that was passed, in that it was enacted not because of the nature of things but specifically to satisfy a special interest in an immediate political action. It is public knowledge that, following Pease's denunciation in the CCD, the top military echelon has been maneuvering to bring the investigation of the "La Cantuta" case under the military's special jurisdiction. In the view of all the jurists, it is more than evident that the case of the La Cantuta massacre does not properly fall within the competency of the military tribunals, because it does not derive from the military's functions, for it is not credible that those functions include the assassination of students. The case clearly falls within the competency of the ordinary courts, involving as it does the assassination of civilians. And this is set forth in the Penal Code.

For these reasons, the civil investigating judge, Cubas Villanueva, placed an official written request on the military tribunal that it transfer the case to the court having original jurisdiction. This request, having been refused, produced a jurisdictional dispute. As set forth in the law, the solution of that dispute devolves upon the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court of Justice, and requires four votes in favor of one jurisdiction or the other. In executive session, the Criminal Division vote was three for the military jurisdiction and two for the ordinary jurisdiction, thus requiring under the law that another Supreme Court magistrate be called in to cast a vote. At this point, however, the Congress stepped in and passed a law providing that for the determination of competency only a simple majority is required, and stipulating, in an incredible aberration, that this provision "is applicable to all proceedings presently in course, without requiring new voting." Thus, under its true name, it is a law determining that the La Cantuta case is to be tried by the military tribunals.

Third, the law thus passed is illegal and therefore not enforceable, because it cannot replace the provisions of an organic law, which is of a higher category and specifies that the deciding votes must be four in number. It is contrary to the Constitution, in that, according to Article 139, "No authority may take over a pending case that is before the courts"—which this is—"nor interfere ... the exercise of the functions of the courts." It is doubly contrary to the Constitution because, according to Article 103, "No law has retroactive force nor retroactive effect..."; and to stipulate in the new law that it is applicable immediately to proceedings in course is to enact a retroactive provision.

Fourth, and gravest of all, the CCD's action obviously constitutes an intolerable intrusion by the Legislative Power upon the Judicial Power. As the CAL [Lima Bar

Association] has aptly put it: "The intrusion by Congress, with a lack of conscientiousness that contradicts its constituent nature, and contradicts the brand new Constitution of 1993, is inadmissible, representing as it does a virtual coup d'etat by the Legislative Power against the independence and freedom of the Judicial Power."

But the Judicial Power could have asserted its freedom and independence by disavowing such an aberrant law. And to this end, the Supreme Court justices need only have met in Plenary Session and declared that they would continue with the procedure for defining competency in accordance with the norms set forth in the Court's organic law. Lamentably, and despite the public outcry, they did not do so; and in an act of submissiveness rather than of independence, they again permitted the Judicial Power to be trampled under foot, as they did on 5 April. This attests to the fact that, in Peru, independence of the Powers is nonexistent; that a democratic State governed by law does not exist; that, beyond mere formalisms, the Legislative, bowing to an Executive dictum, hastens to pass a law that violates the very Constitution the Legislative has enacted; and that the Judicial hastens to accept it as valid. It is repulsive, but not surprising; because the magistrates who voted in favor of military competency to prosecute the case-Pantoja, Iberico, and Montes de Oca—were appointed during the current regime, as was also the current president of the Supreme Court, who throughout his term to date, and specifically in this case, has shown an absolute lack of a sense of the dignity of the position he occupies.

Except for the innermost circle of governmental authorities, since even the pro-Fujimori group "Renovation" has distanced itself, and as I write these lines the rumor persists that Ministers Camet and Bustamente have resigned, public rejection of that aberrant law by the media as well as by the political groupings and opinion makers has been total. Some, not I, hoped Fujimori would not take personal responsibility for its promulgation, leaving that task to the Congress. But it did not happen that way, and following the repeated presence of the Commanding General of the Army in the Palace of the Government, the promulgation of the law was published last Thursday in EL PERUANO.

A few months ago, with reference to the La Cantuta proceedings, I wrote that the last thing the military would permit would be the denying of the military tribunals' competency to hear the case. The recent "Vaticano" case, in which members of the military are also implicated, and which is another example of the trampling of the Judicial Power, provides further evidence that the Army exercises a determinative policy-making role in the running of the country.

To any thinking person, it is obvious that the scandal of bringing "Vaticano" to trial as a traitor to the country, thus circumventing a public trial, and the recent enactment of this aberrant law attacking the integrity of a State governed by law, are actions that damage the legal image of Mr. Fujimori's government, that damage the possibilities of external aid, and that therefore can hardly be believed to have originated in Mr. Fujimoro's personal opinion, but rather in pressures being applied by the Joint Command of the Armed Forces.

Uruguay

Executive Branch Announces Armed Forces Appointments

PY1703225894 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 3 Mar 94 p 10

[Text] The executive branch yesterday appointed General Mario J. Aguerrondo as the military attache at the Uruguayan Embassy in Washington. This means he must resign from the presidency of the Antarctic Institute.

General Luis Abraham is the new Military Household chief. He replaces General Manuel Fernandez, who left in mid-1993.

Gen. Abraham thus leaves the General Directorate of Information for Defense, the intelligence services of the Defense Ministry, which was entrusted to a Navy officer in February.

Colonel Roque Gallego becomes an aide to Defense Minister Hugo Martins.

Through another resolution, Air Force Brigadier General Werner Malates joins the Armed Forces High Court of Promotions and Appropriations, replacing Air Force Brigadier General Rafael Orique.

General Juan Curuchet and Rear Admiral Raul Risso are also members of the aforementioned court. The resolution also provides for several new posts to be taken up as of 1 February.

Air Force Colonel Jose Besenzoni is appointed to the Armed Forces Joint Staff as Air Force deputy commander. Air Force Colonel Jorge Mendez becomes the Air Force representative to the Antarctic Institute. Navy Colonel Jorge Mora joins the Air Force general command. [sentence as published]

Major Klevert Pereira and Air Force Captain Duilio Rebellato are to be transferred to the Defense Ministry as of 1 March.

Colonels Julio Sosa, Oscar Chiossi, Angel Melgar, Heber Cappi, Icaro Mendez, and Guillermo Cedrez move to the Center for Advanced National Studies. Col. Sosa is to be the director of this center.

Broad Front Picks Montevideo Mayor as Presidential Candidate

PY1803004194 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Mar 94 p 9

[Excerpts] The Broad Front announced at Shangrila on 9 March that Montevideo Mayor Tabare Vazquez is the

coalition's presidential pre-candidate. The party rejected all conditions presented by Senator Danilo Astori to accept becoming a candidate from the municipal capital.

During the meeting held by the leftist coalition party, which lasted more than six hours, Vazquez finally accepted becoming a presidential candidate. His candidacy now will have to be confirmed in a Broad Front national meeting. Vazquez explained that his remarks, made 48 hours before, about preferring to be reelected Montevideo mayor had been misunderstood.

After Vazquez accepted becoming a pre-candidate, the Broad Front offered Sen. Danilo Astori the possibility of becoming a candidate to be Montevideo mayor, with Vazquez' support.

Astori answered that he accepted with the condition that he be permitted to continue heading a new political group made up of legislators and leaders who today are considered independent Broad Front followers.

Astori's proposal prompted a wave of comments, and even though nothing was decided, most representatives of the 12 factions attending the meeting rejected the proposal with similar arguments. One of the most repeated reasons to oppose Astori's proposal was the Broad Front tradition forbidding double candidacies. In other words, a candidate representing the entire coalition cannot, at the same time, appear on the ticket of one of the groups participating in the coalition.

It was agreed to recess until 16 March in order to give time for all groups to independently analyze the issue and define who will represent the Front in the race for Montevideo's mayoralty.

Sen. Danilo Astori declined to comment when EL PAIS asked him about the matter at the end of the meeting, adding that he will talk with reporters later in the day. He said, however, that he does not intend to resign from his plan to work for the creation of a new group of independent Broad Front followers.

No other names of possible candidates to head Montevideo's city hall were mentioned on 9 March in case Astori confirms he will not become the candidate. A few days ago, the name of Senator Mariano Arana, the Front's 1984 candidate, was mentioned in congressional corridors as a possible candidate. At that time, however, Arana was an "independent" and did not belong to the Artigas Sector, the group that elected him to the Senate.

There is a formula circulating among Broad Front leaders that will be analyzed by the different coalition groups. This formula has Tabare Vazquez and Sen. Danilo Astori heading all possible tickets. [passage omitted]

After announcing the candidacy of Montevideo Mayor Tavare Vazquez for the presidency of the Republic, Broad Front leader Liber Seregni said the coalition now must "program the appropriate electoral campaign."

Seregni made this remark in Shangrila (Canelones) after the Broad Front provisional executive board meeting that gathered to define the issue of candidacies.

Regarding the candidate for Montevideo's city hall, Seregni said: "We are talking about it. It was proposed..., I proposed Sen. Danilo Astori."

"We have been talking about the issue and we have been listening—as we appropriately should. Sen. Astori gave us his personal opinion on the matter, and we are comparing it with the interest of the coalition as a group. We are seeking to harmonize Astori's rightful personal wishes with the Broad Front's best interests," Seregni said.

The Broad Front leader added: "We have been exchanging ideas. We have talked about a series of issues and concluded that executive board members need to discuss the matter with their respective grassroots. We then decided to postpone a decision until the 16 March meeting."

Before joining the meeting of the so-called "provisional" executive board Vazquez said: "It is just one more stage in a process that will develop progressively into a satisfactory political message, a very positive message for the people."

The capital's mayor said the Broad Front already has approved its reorganization and programmatic platform and is progressing in its efforts to achieve a larger electoral coalition with other political forces. "The process is proceeding very well; I am optimistic," Vazquez said.

Meanwhile, Socialist Senator Reinaldo Gargano said the recommendation to the highest Broad Front bodies (the plenum and the congress) to promote Vazquez's candidacy for the presidency of the Republic was approved unanimously and "with cheers."

"I think we have taken a very important step because the force and attraction of this candidacy goes beyond Broad Front borders. It is a proposal that clearly attracts citizens with backgrounds not typical of Broad Front followers," the Socialist senator said.

Venezuela

Council of Ministers Approves Emergency Banking Law

PA1703220794 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers today approved the emergency banking law reforms that President Rafael Caldera promulgated last week. The reforms authorize the Executive Branch to revoke the passports of persons involved in the Banco Latino debacle.

The reforms, which were approved by the Council of Ministers, include seven basic points and modify 17 articles. Among the most important reforms are the Executive Branch's authority to revoke passports; to have control over Fogade [Deposit Guarantee Fund] assistance to institutions; to regulate operations related to the purchase of Banco Latino's debts; to modify legal conditions to encourage the participation of foreign banks in the process; and to [word indistinct] the bidding, delayed payment, and bankruptcy procedures currently hindering the government's action. The reforms also included the stipulation that the Supreme Court's political and administrative court has to be informed of any amparo proceedings related to the Banco Latino case. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Reform Proposal Outlined

94SM0239A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 31 Jan 94 p D2

[Article by Javier Ignacio Mayorca]

[Text] This week, the Congress will begin to take up the challenge of revising the Constitution of the nation. In this connection, a group of jurists made up of Jose Guillermo Andueza, Ricardo Combellas, and Tulio Alvarez have completed the drafting of the document containing the proposals pertinent to this effort that will be set forth by the National Convergence spokesmen.

It appears that this effort will be plagued by obstacles. There are sectors in Congress that belong to various political movements and that favor beginning the discussions on constitutional reform again, from the zero mark. This would involve setting aside four years of work carried out by the Bicameral Commission, over which Rafael Caldera, the president-elect, presided.

The Convergence, for its part, wants a new Constitution approved this year. To this end, Jose Guillermo Andueza will meet at 1100 this morning with the board of the Supreme Court of Justice to analyze possible changes in the judicial branch.

The strategy involves launching a discussion with all sectors in the country as soon as possible and maintaining the idea that the work of many years should not be jettisoned simply because sectors interested in blocking the "initiatives for change" might exist.

The document in question is entitled "Proposed Constitutional Reform (comments on the proposal approved by the Senate on first discussion)." It is 44 pages long and, as was to be expected, it deals with many aspects. The most novel were chosen for the purposes of this article.

The editorial commission agreed that the four types of referendum, or direct vote by the citizens on specific proposals, should be maintained. They are the approbatory, abrogative, consultative, and revocatory forms.

According to the document, the initiative for the convocation of an approbatory referendum should come from the majority of the members of one of the legislative chambers, "and not while they are meeting in joint session."

Also, reconsideration of the Senate proposal according to which this form could also be used when 5 percent of the electors in each body so desire was recommended. This was not, however, set forth as an alternate proposal.

Where the revocatory referendum on members of the executive branch designated prior to election is concerned, the document deems it desirable that the requirement for convocation be reduced. That requirement is currently estimated at 15 percent of the registered electors, "and its effects on revocation of the mandate when more than 50 percent have cast negative votes."

The document also proposes that the authority of such a referendum be extended to include the dissolution of the Congress as a whole, rather than just its members considered individually."

Concerning the abrogative referendum for revoking laws, the document urges "reconsideration of the Senate proposal to limit the time allowed for convocation to the six months following approval of the law." There were no comments made on the proposal regarding the advisory referendum.

With the Convergence version of a new constitution, not only would it be possible to dissolve the parliament through an electoral method, but the president of the Republic could also dissolve it, as suggested by Francisco Eguiogunen, the Peruvian treatise writer.

On this basis, if the chief of state had to deal with an adverse parliament, he could order it dissolved and could immediately convoke new elections.

If the balance of forces should fail to change, the executive branch would then find itself under interdiction and would have to be replaced. If, on the contrary, votes favorable to the government party were obtained, this would be interpreted as popular support of the executive administration.

On the state level, the norm would be modified, since according to the document, the legislative assemblies could only be dissolved if the people were to approve the governor's administration, after the legislature itself had rejected the reports and statements. This represents an effort to establish a mechanism for exerting control over possible "political excesses."

The document of the Andueza-Combellas-Alvarez commission expresses the belief that "the complexity of government functions has made it necessary to rethink the possibility of establishing the position of prime minister" in order to assist the president in the task of coordinating the work of the executive branch.

The duties of this official would include the following, among others: to propose the appointment and removal of cabinet members; to coordinate the national plans with those of the states and municipalities; to receive the accounting reports of the ministers; and to take responsibility for the relations between the executive and legislative branches.

According to recommendations of this document, the prime minister could be removed by presidential decision, or after approval of a censure motion by at least three-fifths of the members of the Chamber of Deputies. This would entail, in addition, the resignation of the entire cabinet.

Because of space limitations, other aspects dealt with in the document (elimination of the Judicature Council, reestablishment of the contracts of national interest, creation of frontier zones, etc.) could not be included in this article. The debate is just beginning, however, and the plan that emerges from it will have to be submitted to the people for approval, on a basis similar to the Guatemalan experience last Sunday.

Escovar Salom Submits Annual Report to Congress

94SM0239B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
2 Feb 94 p D1

[Article by Ascension Reyes R.]

[Excerpts] Consistent with the constitutional norm, Comptroller General of the Republic Ramon Escovar Salom has submitted the annual report of the operations of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic to the officers of the Congress. He noted on this occasion that during his first year in office, he had said that a true state of law had not developed in Venezuela and that the citizens remained vulnerable, lacking efficient institutions to protect them.

He emphasized that while reorganizing his department, autonomy for the Office of the Attorney General was achieved, and now neither the executive branch, the political parties, nor economic pressure groups are able to exert any influence upon it.

In connection with the battle against corruption, he said that pioneering work was done. The results achieved included the prosecution of a president of the Republic in office and his consequent removal from government office. In this connection, the courts issued about 700 arrest warrants between 1989 and 1993, and they ordered civil prosecution in cases involving crimes against public property amounting to more than a billion bolivares.

In connection with the Recadi case and the export bonds alone, about 6,000 prosecutions were initiated by the Office of the Comptroller, and a total of 228 arrest warrants were obtained.

On this point, this official said that "it is absolutely essential to encourage the proper participation on the part of each of the sectors and bodies involved in the decisive battle being waged against the scourge of corruption. The task is not a simple one. It is possible to combat this evil. It can be reduced to much smaller dimensions if this problem is approached on an integral basis, with sincerity, and with an iron determination on the part of all to reduce it." [passage omitted]

The defense of human rights as a factor limiting the exercise of power, and in particular, the civil and political rights whose enjoyment and exercise are basic to the survival of the state, merit separate consideration.

The comptroller general pointed out that defense of the civil and political rights of the citizens is vital to the maintenance of a solid democratic system.

He believes that reflection upon the two military uprisings in 1992 is necessary, since it has been a consistent requirement of the administration that the military authorities allow inspectors access to the military penal establishments so that they can verify that the human rights of the citizens subject to this jurisdiction are being respected.

It has been established that there have been violations of the laws pertaining to citizens' rights by agents of the various police bodies. This official did not fail to note the actions of the agents of state security against the journalists investigating the origins of these incidents, and it was for this reason that he appealed to the MRI [Ministry of the Interior] to ensure respect for the right to free information.

On the penitentiary issue, it was noted that the level of external and internal security at penal establishments has a direct effect on the exercise by the inmates of their human rights. [passage omitted]

Economic Rights

It is the opinion of the comptroller general that the Office of the Attorney General should be expanded with a view to undertaking the defense of the economic rights of the citizens. He emphasized that this need has become more obvious in view of the government intervention in the Banco Latino.

"This shows how basic it is for an institution like the Office of the Attorney General to be concerned with the defense and oversight of the economic rights of the citizens."

The comptroller general warned that the intensity of the battle against corruption must be maintained, because in large part the progress that has been made has to do with public opinion and the role played by the media, since they have joined as allies in this struggle.

He believes that it is necessary to undertake more profound actions to recover the illicit funds that are located outside the national territory. These actions

should include civil suits for the recovery of more than a billion bolivares in order to effect restitution for the losses caused to the public assets.

This can be done, he said, if the actions and legal mechanisms for pursuing investigations abroad are coordinated.

New Development Minister: No Return to Past Policies

94SM0239C Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 5 Feb 94 p 5 Section 2

[Interview with Minister of Development Luis Carlos Palacios by Luis Manuel Escalante; place and date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of his investiture as the new minister of development by Gustavo Perez Mijares, Dr. Luis Carlos Palacios announced that his ministry will immediately turn its attention to drafting a new industrial policy.

He explained that in this process, there is no intention of returning to the past schemes that have now become outdated, "but neither can we allow the market to dictate everything."

He also announced that his ministry is prepared to undertake a review of all of the integration agreements the country has signed, with a view to improving those that can be revised, in terms of the international relations situation, to the benefit of Venezuela.

Minister Palacios made these points during his brief address following the investiture ceremony and the signing of the pertinent record of investiture by Dr. Gustavo Perez Mijares.

The outgoing minister mentioned his brief service in the Ministry of Development, and he expressed his thanks for the support given him by the personnel and the professionals he called upon to work with him in what he called "this process of transition."

He noted that the Ministry of Development is an economic ministry, although during his short term of service he gave it the social weight it should have. He said he is satisfied with the work done. "I am aware that I could have done more, but time moves on inexorably." He also admitted that he might have made mistakes. "We are all human." But he added that "we have also had our successes, and that is the important thing."

Following the formal ceremony, which included the swearing in of Dr. Werner Corrales Leal as the new director general of development, Dr. Luis Carlos Palacios met with the group of journalists who had attended the transition ceremony. Seated at his new desk, he answered their questions cordially.

[Escalante] Minister Palacios, what is the nature of this new industrial policy you have announced?

[Palacios] It will be a policy requiring that the action of the state be convergent with the action of the market. It should not be presumed that the action of the state should be allowed to disappear, in the belief that the market will govern everything.

[Escalante] Wouldn't this be something like establishing freedom for the market to function, while at the same time imposing norms and controls?

[Palacios] Well, there are always norms to which adherence is necessary. Such exist in every institution. Markets can exist because the institutions exist, and the economic agents must conform to their rules and restrictions.

[Escalante] What kind of support would this new industrial policy give the manufacturing sector, with a view to its development?

[Palacios] You see, the main idea is to encourage growth from the inside out. In addition, this growth must be convergent with all of the other factors in the economy, and, naturally, the sectorial aspect must be taken into account. Both the industrial policies and the specific sectorial aspects must be oriented toward a single goal, which is the development of the country. In this connection, industry, because of its ability to promote and link the technological advances and innovations with the increase in productivity, will obviously play a key role in Venezuela.

Palacios then went on to note that Venezuela is an oil-producing country. A large part of the national income comes from this product, but its capacity to generate jobs stands at a mere 1 percent in relation to the other sources of jobs. "For this reason, we have to realize that oil is not everything."

In view of this circumstance, he warned that "any country looking toward the 21st century must base its development on the strengthening of its industrial sector, making use of its comparative advantages and developing its competitive advantages."

[Escalante] Does this growth from the inside out involve a revision of the current customs system and the establishment of some measures to protect certain areas?

[Palacios] While continuing to respect the international agreements signed, we will review all of the integration agreements, in an effort to ensure that our participation in international trade is participation that truly promotes development, rather than merely a naive and indiscriminate involvement.

[Escalante] This will be done with regard to the existing agreements with Central America and the Caribbean?

[Palacios] With all of them.

[Escalante] Including the Andean Pact?

[Palacios] Including the Andean Pact, of course.

[Escalante] What will be done where the mechanisms already established in the country to combat antidumping measures and subsidies are concerned?

[Palacios] All of the existing tools, and how they mesh with the needs, will be reviewed in order to enable us to draft an efficient industrial policy.

Minister Palacios made it clear that it is very likely that this policy will be ready by 1995, and that "the role of the government will be to present it to the country."

"The industrial policy we will implement will be that which the country produces."

[Escalante] On the level of the consumer public, could this new industrial policy mean an increase in the basic market basket and in controlled prices?

[Palacios] In his address, President Caldera appealed for compromise and solidarity. In economic policy, this could be reflected in an effort to achieve a price agreement, so as to be able to eliminate the inflationary inertia without causing supply problems or sudden rises in prices.

[Escalante] Will there be a specific policy for small and average industries?

[Palacios] The new industrial policy that will be presented to the country will include special treatment for small and average industries, as Dr. Caldera indicated in his address.

In conclusion, Luis Carlos Palacios, the new minister of development, said that "this will also mean seeking some convergence with the financial sector, in order to resolve the problems of financing and reorganizing the state bodies that are involved with this issue."

Aluminum Industry Official on Adjustment Process

94SM0239D Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 4 Section 2

[Article by Mariela Leon]

[Excerpts] Puerto Ordaz, 3 February—Despite the substantial increase in world consumption of aluminum, which is estimated at 3 percent for 1994 and 1995, and the production adjustments agreed upon by the main producers on the international level, there are no prospects for the reestablishment of a balance between supply and demand in a period of less than two years.

In her opening address at the First National Aluminum Sector Seminar on Potential and Opportunity, held in this city, Marielena Posada, the president of CVG [Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana]-Bauxilum (the result of the merger of Bauxiven and Interalumina), outlined the local and international situation of the sector.

On the world level, the aluminum industry is facing a difficult situation. It is the result of the continued price decline that began in 1989 and the great increase in the inventory levels resulting from reduced consumption in America and Europe, which was accompanied by substantial increases in production in the Western world during the same period."

Posada said that the situation in the Eastern part of the world is no different, since while a decrease can indeed be seen in production, it is not by any means as great as the decline in consumption. This situation has had an even greater impact on the industry because of the inclusion of the metal from the Community of Independent States (the former Soviet Union) on the international markets, to a great extent reflecting the changes that have come about in the war-materiel industry on the international level as a result of the political events of recent years. [passage omitted]

Reducing Costs: The Goal

The president of Bauxilum commented that in addition to the effects of low prices, this Venezuelan industry has been affected in recent years by low levels of productivity, high production costs, a high level of indebtedness, and a critical cash situation.

A review of the situation of the aluminum sector of CVG in 1993, she said, makes a realistic view of the situation possible on the level of the basic sector of the industry.

The results of such a review reveal an industry in crisis, in which an encouraging recovery process began in the second half of the year. This was evident from the very major reduction in total production costs, which declined from $1,460 per ton in the month of July to $1,120 per ton at the end of the year, clearly revealing the potential this business enjoys, she noted.

"The existence of an integrated complex for the production of aluminum, which was consolidated with the incorporation of Bauxiven as a processor of bauxite on entirely competitive terms, and with excellent results in the Interalumina operation; the undeniable energy advantages that are available in Guayana; and the capacity for response that has been evidenced by the aluminum people, leading to a change in the trend in the development of the business to which we referred previously, constitute a firm foundation for the future consolidation of the Venezuelan aluminum industry.

Posada maintained that we will reach the goal of producing at a total cost of less than $1,000 per ton in 1994. Our forecasts show that we will have reduced the cost to less than $900 per ton by 1996.

"This will make us one of the most competitive complexes in the world. Our goal, therefore, is to achieve world leadership in the production of aluminum."

Second Phase

On being asked about the future of ALCASA [Caroni Aluminum, Inc.] in the short run, this official explained that at that aluminum enterprise, "advances are being

made in the privatization process. The alternative that is gaining support involves the massive and immediate incorporation of the private capital obtained in the first phase, through the negotiation of the Guacara reducing plant, by means of affiliation with the national bank.

"The second phase, involving the reduction plant in Puerto Ordaz, is still pending. Work is being done in the CVG on the problem of saving ALCASA, and privatization is one of the solutions being considered." [passage omitted]